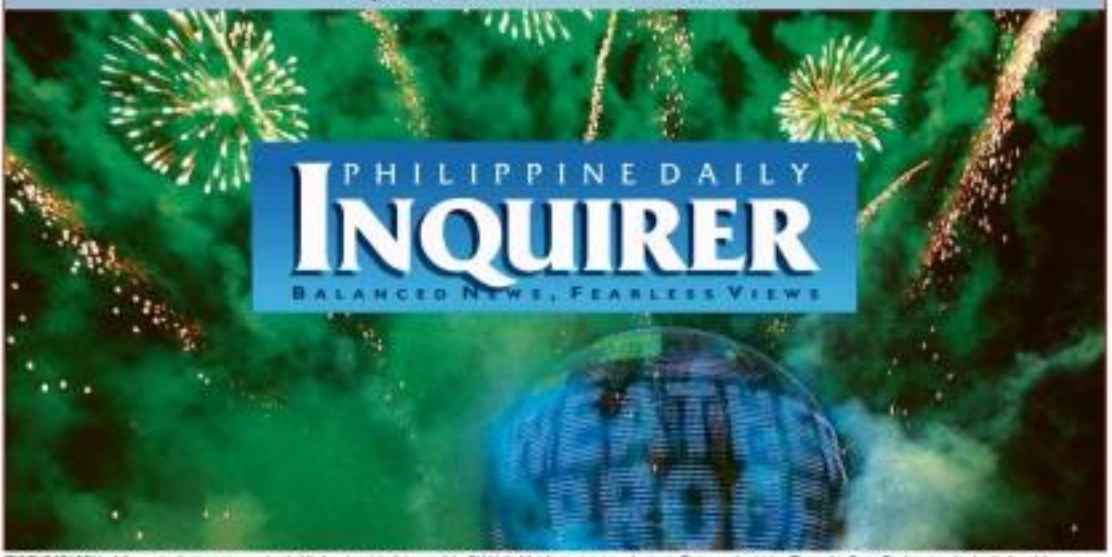
Friday, November 20, 2009 ★★ Vol. 24 / No. 342

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



'TIS THE SEASON A fireworks display accompanies the Wednesday night light-up of the SM Mall of Asia's giant globe, ushering in Christmas festivities. The mall in Pasay City is reputed to be the fourth largest shopping mall in the world. (NOEL CELIS)

Gibo and Edu: Game *na*!

I'm tired of Mafia in LP, says Serge O

By Jhannen Napallacan in Cebu and Lolit B. Salaverria and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila

CRYING DOUBLE-CROSS, former Sen. Serge Osmeña said yesterday he is abandoning his quest for a Senate seat under the Liberal Party (LP) in the upcoming elections and is running as an independent in protest over the inclusion of former Socioeconomic Secretary Ralph Recto in its senatorial lineup.

"That is almost fatal," Osmeña said in an interview last night, demanding a "Mafia" in the party of Sen. Benigno Aquino III and disappointment at "infighting" in its ranks.

Osmeña explained that he

(WITNESS A-17)

Excellence will be the key to our winning–Teodoro

IT'S OFFICIAL Lakas-Kampi-CMD standard-bearer Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and his running mate Edu Manzano bump fists at their official proclamation during the party's national convention at the Philippine International Convention Center. (EDWIN BACASMAS)

By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

THE GIBO AND EDU SHOW GOT OFF TO A roaring start yesterday, declaring "Game *na*!" and saying that excellence, not criticism of opponents, will be the key to victory in the May elections.

Wearing a polo shirt with rolled up sleeves and denim jeans, Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., 43, who until Monday was defense secretary, was officially proclaimed standard-bearer of President Macapagal-Arroyo's ruling coalition.

Also proclaimed was his running mate, popular actor and TV host Edu Manzano, 54, at the Philippine International Convention Center, which was packed with some 3,000 stalwarts of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition.

"Game na," Manzano yelled to rousing applause. It was the familiar cry on his long-running show "Game KNB (Are You Game?)"

"The surest way to campaign is to criticize," said Teodoro, a Harvard-educated lawyer and bar topnotcher, referring to the opposition candidates he is trailing in popularity surveys.

"Excellence will be the key to our winning our struggle for economic and social liberties," he added.

Teodoro later conceded to reporters that Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III was leading the polls, obviously benefiting

(GIBO A-6)

Edu wins Lakas nod, loses love

By Christian V. Esguerra and Marinel R. Cruz

THE CAMPAIGN HAS YET TO officially begin, but Edu Manzano's inclusion in the administration ticket as vice presidential hopeful has already brought a sheen his fiancee, TV anchor Vicky Webb, was the subject of heated talk at yesterday's Lakas-Kampi-CMD national convention at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

And the 34-year-old actor and game show host could not dodge questions on the matter following a speech he delivered before some 3,000 party mates.

Manzano confirmed that he had broken up with Webb. But he declined to elaborate.

(EDU/WINS A-6)

GMA rallies Lakas troops for May polls

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday rallied her troops behind the administration's candidates in the May elections, calling the ruling coalition the "party of the future" and ignoring widening cracks within its ranks made obvious by the absence of its leading lights.

The President gave a fiery farewell speech as chair of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition before 3,000 cheering supporters gathered at the Philippine International Convention Center for the proclamation of their standard-bearer, resigned Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., and his running mate, actor and TV host Edu Manzano.

Mr. Arroyo, whose term expires next year, said that the coalition had been the nation's most dominant in 15 of the last 17 years with members comprising 73 percent of national and local officials.

Since the merger of Lakas-CMD and Kampi has been upheld by the Commission on Elections, she said it was "now a time to consolidate our ranks

(GMA RALLIES A-9)

Pacquiao back today; $150-M fight looms

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Alexis Romero

A MIND-BOGGLING $150-MILlion fight is in the wind but for now, let Manny "Pinoy" Pacquiao savor the biggest victory of his ring career.

Seven weeks after two destructive storms ravaged the Philippines, Filipinos will have a chance to again gather in the streets and extol Pacquiao's triumph—in a public celebration that may surpass previous outbursts of popular acclaim for him.

Today is the day the Pacman returns—once more a conqueror.

Organizers have prepared what one official called a "mas-

(PACQUIAO A-11)

'Goodvertising' top Subic ad talk

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—BY doing good, the advertising industry could thrive in the future, a top advertising executive in South Africa told delegates to the 21st Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) here yesterday.

Mike Schalk, chief creative officer of Network BBDO South Africa, said the advertising industry should "turn away from cute, clever advertising designed to win awards but don't do any good in the world."

"What about the real problems of the world? Like homelessness. What can we do about that?" he asked.

Officials of the Ashburd, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Olongapo and Baguio cities formally opened the 21st PAC on Wednesday

(GOODVERTISING A-6)

INQUIRER president Alexander Prieto-Romualdez welcomes PAC delegates on opening night.

ASALA Group CEO Fernando Zobel de Ayala delivers keynote address.

PASG denies extort charges vs its agents

By TJ Burgonio

THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTIsmuggling Group (PASG) yesterday scoffed at allegations that its agents had raided Korean-owned business establishments to extort money.

Jeffrey Hanasaman, PASG director for administration and finance, belied reports that a team led by Senior Insp. Joseph Joaquin had harassed PIOS Enterprises into coughing up cash.

"The truth is neither extortion nor even an attempt to commit extortion transpired in the said PASG operation," Hanasaman said in a letter to the Inquirer, saying the allegation has besmirched the reputation not only of the PASG but also of its agents.

(PASG DENIES A-8)

Where's the loo? Benguet moves to clear confusion

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—SHOULD TOilets that Filipinos often refer to as "comfort rooms" or "rest rooms" be called so it is?

Members of the province's tourism council believe so if only to make them more

(WHERE'S THE LOO A-6)

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Mangyans to press hunger strike

Comelec opens books today

By Kristine L. Alave

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS is bracing for an avalanche of pre-election protests and legal questions, as aspirants for election rallies to 20 000 begin filing their candidacy certificates today.

Comelec commissioner Rene Sarmiento said the poll body will be accepting the certificates of candidacy (COCs) of those contesting the national and local races in 2010, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3.

During the filing period, the Comelec will be open on weekends and holidays, for the last days of filing, all Comelec offices outside will be open until midnight.

Local poll offices will accept the COCs of candidates running for congressional representatives and local posts.

Those running for national offices are expected to file their COCs at the Comelec headquarters in Intramuros, Manila.

Sarmiento said the poll body is anticipating legal challenges concerning various election issues and candidates.

"We're bracing ourselves. We have to face it, as an the frontline," he told reporters yesterday.

For instance, based on what has been reported in the newspapers, Sarmiento said the Comelec expects opposition to the candidacy of deposed president and convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada, who is running for president again despite doctors that he can legally do so.

There are those who believe that Estrada, who was ousted three years into his term in 2001, is disqualified from seeking the presidency as the Constitution bars presidents from running for a second term.

Besides, the pardon given to Estrada after his conviction for plunder barred him from public office, these critics say.

Aside from Estrada, legal issues surrounding premature campaigning are another potential flash point.

Sarmiento explained that once a candidate has filed his COC, he is covered by the rule against premature campaigning, that is, engaging in campaign activities before the start of the official campaign period.

The law was affirmed after the Supreme Court upheld the conviction of Bonifacio Bosoon, the mayor of Sta. Monica, Surigao del Norte, who was found guilty of premature campaigning, for remarks he said.

Actor Johnny Delgado; 61

DELGADO

ACTOR JOHNNY Delgado died yesterday of complications from lung pneumonia. He was 61.

"Daddy just sup a good flight. He didn't want to leave his family," said his daughter, actress Isa Pilar.

Delgado, Juan Mauricio Nono in real life, died in his house in Quezon City with his wife, actress-filmmaker Lauretet Sudiller, daughters Anna and Isa, and his eldest Glenda by his side.

Daddy was a very religious man. His faith kept him strong. He told him not to worry about us and to rest well. He didn't want him to suffer anymore so we asked him to simply let go," Pilar said in a phone interview.

Delgado's cancer was diagnosed in 2008. He underwent eight cycles of chemotherapy.

On Nov. 25, Delgado was brought to the St. Luke's Medical Center after he vomited blood. "He left the hospital two days later. Daddy said he just wanted to go home," Pilar said.

Delgado, the son of film director Gerardo Nono and actress Virgie Montesa, appeared in almost 60 films and TV series in his over four decades in show business. In 2004, Delgado wrote and acted in the drama/comedy movie "Inom Kuntan," which Sudiller directed.

Delgado's wake is at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine on Mother Mayella, Quezon City. Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on Nov. 28.

Marlowe R. Cruz

By Alexis Puga and Rica T. Olchoondo

SOME 25 HUNGER STRIKERS, MOST OF THEM members of the Mangyan tribe, vowed yesterday to continue their protest in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) central office in Quezon City to press for the cancellation of a big mining project on Mindoro island.

Fr. Edu Gariguez of Mangyan Alangan, one of the strikers, said the participants, 15 of them Mangyans, decided on Wednesday evening to continue with their hunger strike even after Environment Secretary Lito Atienza succeeded earlier that afternoon the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) that was issued to Wenphil Corporation, Inc. Inter Pacific Resources Exploration Inc. (IPREX) Inc. on Oct. 16.

Jubilation fades

Gariguez said their jubilation over the suspension faded after they studied Atienza's order.

"The suspension only covers 90 days. We want the project suspended. It also gives Intex the opportunity to submit the documents needed. It left the decision for the continuation of the project in the hands of the DENR. It might still decide in favor of Intex. So this is not yet finished," Gariguez told reporters.

Atienza had ordered the suspension of Intex's ECC for 90 days during which time the mining firm was directed to submit documentation that it conducted public consultations on the project.

Gariguez said "no-meaning-ful public consultations" on the project occurred.

"We want a cancellation of the project. It is clear Mindoro residents are opposed to the project. It did not go through the proper process," said Neti Intanon, a Iraya leader.

Lives at stake

Mangyan leader Rodany Indin told members of her tribe, "would die if the ECC is given. We will lose our lives, our livelihood. As Mangyans, we value nature and the environment."

Mangyans, she said, are forbidden from destroying the environment.

Gariguez showed reporters the results of a recent study conducted by a seven-member International Expert Assessment Review Committee (IEARC) of the Mindoro Nickel Project.

Intex said it runs 1,888 farms accordingly with the project even after its ECC was suspended.

"First of all, we're not yet mining the site. We're studying it. There might be a misconception that we are already mining," said John Fresnedi, Intex's Hillsdale-based project manager.

Fresnedi said Intex will cease to complete its feasibility study on the project. "We expect the feasibility study to be finished around February," he added.

He said that Japanese firm Intex avail through the process of consultations and getting the necessary permits to study the potential mine site.

Contrary to the claim of local residents, he said the site did not sit on a critical watershed.

Chiz for VP? Solon says it's possible

AFTER BOLTING THE PARTY THAT was building him up to be a presidential candidate, Sen. Francis Escudero may just decide to run for vice president, according to a party-list representative who is a close friend of Escudero.

And if he were to pursue his vice-presidential ambition, Escudero will not be joining a new party, said Jec Nieto, party-list member Florencio Noel.

"Most likely he will run for vice president as an independent," said Noel.

Noel said Escudero has a fighting chance to be the vice-presidential bet, and believes he can launch a campaign and muster enough support nationwide even without any political party behind him.

While Escudero has been placing in the middle of the pack of aspiring presidents in the most recent surveys, he has fared better in surveys assessing the chances of possible vice presidents. He and Sen. Loren Legarda topped a Pulse Asia survey on possible vice presidents that was released in August.

In the latest Pulse Asia survey of vice-presidential preferences, however, Sen. Manuel Roxas emerged on top.

Escudero recently resigned from the Nacionalista Party's coalition, where he was chairman of its senatorial slate.

The NPC had been grooming him to be its presidential candidate in 2010.

Escudero has not made any formal announcement about running for president, but he has said that if he did run, it would be for the top post.

Leila B. Salaverria

ALLIED BANK POWERS UP PNB's NEW CREDIT CARD LINE: THE PNB PLATINUM AND ESSENTIALS MASTERCARD

October 9, 2009, PNB Financial Center, Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City. Top brass of Allied Banking Corporation and Philippine National Bank meet to galvanize their companies' banking strengths, giving way to the new PNB MasterCard.

A Unique Corporate Alliance

Allied Bank, as a principal member of MasterCard, has granted a tie up with Philippine National Bank for the issuance of PNB Platinum and Essentials MasterCard. The cooperation between two of the country's major financial institutions shall help PNB strengthen its dependent patronage with its very own credit cards.

"This arrangement is unique from our company's previous deals in such a way that PNB cardholders are granted all the features and benefits inherent to an Allied Bank MasterCard," explains Ed Rosa, Jr., Allied Bank's senior vice president and Credit Card Department Head. "This elevates it towards a more balanced investor and off the existing premia that go along with it."

The Best of Both Worlds to their Esteemed Cardholders

"It is good that passing in card operations one stands to achieve even before the eventual merger," says PNB's president and CEO, Edwin Bautista. "It's the perfect dovetailing of functions and procedures between two outstanding companies. PNB as an affiliate member bank concentrates on selling this credit while all the backroom operations shall be performed by Allied Bank."

The simple sign up commerce affords a major advantage over both corporations' undertakings - all to the greatest advantage of their valued cardholders.

SMOOTH & STUBBLE-FREE

"I used to shave my underarms, but I really regret it because pang-OT yung regrowth. The hair becomes coarse so I'd get conscious about it. I got chicken skin, scars and rashes so I couldn't wear sleeveless tops everyday. With laserlight, wala na akong problema. And mas smoother and whiter pa ang underarms ko. I'm not only happier and more confident, I have more time to concentrate on work and other things. Ha-enjoy hassles!"

- Angel Locsin, Actress

celebrity "HAIR-FREE" secrets

They've got smooth, white underarms and stubble-free legs...Is it make-up, Photoshop or something else? These ladies agree that it's all thanks to Facial Care's LASERLIGHT hair removal!

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"Like everybody, I had things like waxing and shaving. But often it's get irritations from these methods. Waxing was just really painful. And shaving was one of those tedious things you had to do all the time. After I tried LaserLight, my armpits become smooth. Now I don't have to worry about removing my underarm hair anymore. And I get a lot of compliments from photographers who tell me they don't need to retouch my underarms in the pictures."

- Amanda Griffin-Jacob, Model

WHITER & HAIR-FREE

"I used to shave to remove my underarm hair, but I would get chicken skin and ingrown hairs. I couldn't enjoy seeing hair-free after shaving because my underarm skin had gotten rough and ugly. And the regrowth would start to come out again after only 3 days. With LaserLight, I never have to worry about shaving again. It stopped away my underarm hair permanently. It even made my underarms smoother and whiter!"

- Delamar, Disc Jockey

'Goodvertising' top Subic ad talk

By Inquirer A1

night through the Sportsman Trade Exhibit in the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center.

Later, Margot Rivera, 21st PAC chair, led the launch of "Brand Aid" and its pioneer project, Ahon, to benefit typhoon victims.

Sustainable development

In his keynote address, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, president of the Ayala Group of Companies, talked about the importance of sustainable development in the country.

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, welcomed the more than 3,000 PAC delegates during the opening night cocktails that the Inquirer sponsored.

In his talk, Schultz said the advertising industry was "at the early stages of the biggest business movement in the history of the world and ... [it] is playing a large role."

"The question we have to ask ourselves as marketers is, 'Can creativity change the world for the better?'" he said.

Schultz said the appropriation requested was an "emphatic yes" though what he called "goodvertising"

"Not just charity, it is sustainable," he said.

South African experience

Schultz cited his firm's experience in South Africa, where it had to deal with power blackouts because of the dearth of energy supply.

"When this client, Sedbank, came to us, we told them that instead of aiming to move people, we told them [they] should just make change happen," he said.

The result, he said, was solar-powered billboards that generate not just revenues, but electricity that supplies a school with all the power that it needs.

In a follow up, women artists were also encouraged by a campaign to create plastic bags which were then used to create another series of "green" billboards for the bank.

"We can now things around. Let's turn things around. With campaigns like these, developing countries can lead the way," he said.

Another, albeit unintended result of that campaign, Schultz said was winning the Grand Prix at Cannes.

"It wasn't made for [the] awards, but it won a Grand Prix in Cannes. We didn't do it for that reason," he said.

"The industry is evolving ... The biggest award is in your heart—when you see the difference that you make in other people's lives. Keep thinking," he said.

Schultz said brands could be more powerful by being generous. "It is the way forward," he said.

'Brand Aid'

Schultz said he had seen a number of the proposals, of "goodvertising," in the Philippines in the form of "Brand Aid."

"It's quite humbling what you are doing here in the Philippines. Well done. That's amazing," he said. "I wish more countries would be like yours."

Chairwoman Castillon, chair of the Philippine Advertising Board, told Prieto-Abon (literally, get out of the sun), also means lifting oneself— one of the initiatives under the Brand Aid campaign—was designed to "relieve the suffering of our countrymen who were hit most by the storms."

She described the tragic events brought about by strong typhoons that hit the country in September and December as "re-storming."

"We saw our weakness and we also saw our strength. Our industry saw it. It is to do all that we can by our counterpart and so we had to push on," Castillon said.

She said that sponsors and media companies supporting the 21st PAC would donate the cost and space of ads to fund the construction of houses for typhoon victims.

"We will donate these funds to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) and they will be the ones to decide to whom these houses will be given and where it will be located," she said.

Castillon, however, said the proceeds for the Ahon Awards, the highlight of the PAC where the best ad campaigns are cited, will go to the PNRC Baguio City chapter.

Digital opportunities

She said over P1 million worth of talent slots generated from over 3,000 delegates is "guaranteed to go to Baguio," the original venue of the PAC and one of the typhoon hit areas in the Cordillera.

Digital media experts who talked about social networking and digital technology before the PAC delegates agreed that opportunities were being generated for companies and people savvy enough to cope with interactions in the digital landscape.

Marian Garcel-Javier, president of Synapsys Inc. (formally

mazda

Mazda CX-7

NEW SUV STYLE WITH THE SOUL OF A SPORTS CAR

zoom-zoom

The Mazda CX-7 is like no other SUV. Sleek, muscular curves meet dynamic handling and performance. Drawing on Mazda's sporting heritage and Japanese pedigree, the CX-7 redefines the category. Powered by an MZR 2.5L engine, it comes with 5-speed Activematic Transmission and Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) to give you the drive of your life. It also has a wide tail-gate opening which makes it easier to store whatever items you need. No wonder it's called "the driver's SUV".

THAT'S THE FEELING OF zoom-zoom

mazda.com.ph |

LDP backs Loren, 7 senatorial bets

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE LAKAS NG DEMOKRATIKONG PILIPINO (LDP) headed by Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday formally endorsed the vice presidential candidacy of Sen. Loren Legarda and the re-election bid of seven Senators who are running under different political parties.

In its national executive council meeting at the Manila Hotel, party officials and members supported a resolution endorsing the candidacy of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Senate Presidente Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada, Senators Miriam Defensor Santiago, Pia Cayetano, Ramon Revilla Jr., Lito Lapid and Richard Gordon.

The LDP, the third biggest party after Lakas-Kampi-CMD and Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), formally backed the vice presidential bid of Legarda during the meeting presided over by Angara, party chair and president.

Upon a motion by Mercedes Province board member Rima Gomez, party officials unanimously adopted Legarda as its guest VP candidate for the 2010 polls, but the party set aside in the meantime the decision on whether to support a presidential candidate.

"We don't know yet. We will first see their platforms. We're open to all and not excluding any" said Angara, admitting to reporters that presidential aspirants Senators Manuel Villar and Benigno Aquino III and former President Joseph Estrada have yet to convince the LDP that they have a "clear and doable platform" and a "roadmap to progress."

Angara said that LDP would also support the reelection bid of former Senators Ralph Recto, Franklin Drilon and Vicente Sotto III.

However, Angara said the inclusion of former Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, who has left the Liberal Party following the entry of former Sen. Ralph Recto, an erstwhile administration ally, was still being studied by LDP.

LDP has five representatives, two provincial governors, 100 mayors, and several city, municipal and provincial board officials.

Angara's sister, Aurora Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, his son, Sorsogon Rep. Sonny Angara, lawyers Mike Romero and Avelino Cruz (son Senator Cruz), attended the meeting. Guests included former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, NPC assistants Rep. Edgar San Luis of Laguna and Aurora Gov. Sally Perez.

It's a go for Ebdane's presidential run

By Kristine L. Alave

ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY millionaire backers or funds, former public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr said yesterday his goal to become president is on course.

In a press briefing yesterday, Ebdane said he was not withdrawing from the 2010 presidential race despite lack of funds and poor showing in the surveys.

"My will fight to win," Ebdane said as he downed speculations that he would temper his ambition and run for senator instead under Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

He stressed that he was never a member of Lakas-Kampi-CMD which has chosen Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and now Eduardo Ermita as its candidates for president and vice president, respectively.

Ebdane, an appointee of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said he would file his certificate of candidacy on Dec. 1. He will announce his choice for vice president on and other slots under his party Partido ng Manggagawa at Magsasaka (PMM) on Nov. 29.

Ebdane has tapped former Labor Secretary Ruben Torres as his campaign manager.

Torres, who served under the administration of President Arroyo, has been meeting with election strategists to beef up for the campaign of Ebdane.

"In the past few days, there have been rumors that I was unusually silent because I was going to withdraw from the race. But it is not true because I will continue the fight and I have no intention of going back either," Ebdane said in his speech.

During his platform, Ebdane said he favored changing the 1987 Constitution through constitutional convention.

He also pledged to prioritize peace and order, infrastructure development and land production, labor and employment and preserve the environment once elected president.

Ebdane said he was confident of his chances in 2010, although his opponents have better resources.

"If other (presidential) candidates will spend P1 for their campaign, I might spend only 15 to 25 centavos because I have no money and I will only rely on the support of my party, the party of laborers and peasants," he said.

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Bishop forms commission to revisit Lipa apparitions

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

LIPA ARCHBISHOP RAMON ARGUELLES has formed a seven-member commission to revisit the series of apparitions of the Virgin Mary at the Carmel monastery in Lipa, Batangas, in 1948.

The commission was created in a decree that Arguelles issued on Nov. 12, the same day the archbishop issued another decree, formally lifting the 1951 Church ban against the public veneration of the image of the Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace, in Lipa.

Nov. 12 this year was the 61st anniversary of the last of the series of apparitions that occurred from September to November 1948 in Lipa.

In 1948, the Virgin Mary reportedly appeared 18 times to Teresita Castillo, a senior at the Carmelite monastery. Nine portals with holy images reportedly fell from the sky in her last apparition to Castillo, the Blessed Virgin identified herself, saying, "I am the Mediatrix of All Grace."

Although the veneration of Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace was allowed by the Archbishop Alfred Ignacio, the Church authority declared in 1951 that "there was no supernatural intervention in the reported extraordinary happenings including the shower of rose petals in Lipa."

Ban lifted

Belmonte's successor, Nuñez Sereno, ordered that "no parish be given to anyone by the Lipa Carmelite community and the statue of Our Lady of Mediatrix be withdrawn from public view."

The ban was lifted 40 years later by Arguelles' predecessor Archbishop Gaudencio Cardeña in 1991.

Arguelles said his decree lifting the ban was merely a "reinstation" of Cardeña's 1991 order and that he was doing it because "there was nothing wrong in praising apparitions" and was aware of "the love of the people for the Blessed Mother."

"The Blessed Mother has [restored] the country from colonialism," he said.

Despite the ban, Arguelles said the faithful have been seemingly gone on pilgrimages to the Carmel monastery in Lipa in prayer and ask for favors from the Blessed Mother.

There has been an increasing transfer of pilgrims to the monastery, "making [extraordinary] procession and pious exercises every day; but most of all on first Saturdays and every twelfth day of the month," he said.

A repeat of the shower of rose petals is said to have occurred some years ago but the Carmelites seem have kept a low profile. Some people still have petals in their possession.

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LOOK FOR THE COLOR-CODED TAGS FOR SUPER DISCOUNTS!
RED TAG UP TO 60% OFF ON CLOSEOUT ITEMS
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 26, 2010
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Mac 4:36-37, 52-59
Gospel: Lk 19:45-48

Jesus entered the Temple area and began to drive out the merchants. And he said to them, "God says in the Scriptures: My house shall be a house of prayer; but you have turned it into a den of robbers."

Jesus was teaching every day in the Temple. The chief priests and teachers of the Law wanted to kill him and the elders of the Jews as well, but they were unable to do anything, for all the people were listening to him and hanging on his words.

Commentary

The merchants in the Temple are like all those who, while still practicing the common sins, would like to be responsible and do good works, but only so that God might give them something due in exchange. They want God to repay them for their sacrifices, pleasant to them as well as to the neighbors with God. But it is a mistaken way to carry our business like this. Whatever they are, they are from God, whatever they possess, they receive from God, not themselves. Personal advantages with Christ is to have nothing of his own.

God doesn't look for his own advantage in all things. He is detached and free. He does everything through love. And the person who is united to God, like Jesus, is detached from all of God, so we also detached and free in our actions: we live for the honor of God alone and not for our own advantage ... or rather, we feel the love to God. So, if we want to be truly united to God, we must forget ourselves in spiritual things, we must do everything for God's praise, without asking anything in return. Then, God is present in our spiritual works ... for all the world to see!

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PCGG hails US court rebuke of judge in Marcos wealth case

By Philip C. Tubeza

A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON Good Government (PCGG) official yesterday hailed a US Court of Appeals decision to rebuke the district judge who handed down the historic 1995 ruling awarding $1.4 billion to Marcos human rights victims.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered US District Judge Manuel Real for his handling of the $24.7 million worth of funds from the so-called Arelma account in Merrill Lynch.

On Nov. 12, the appellate court said Real's accounting of the money was "cursory" and ordered that the case involving the funds be transferred to another judge.

Abcede said in a May that the PCGG sought an accounting of the Arelma funds after the Philippine National Bank told the agency that Judge Real refused to account for around $3-million of the money. The funds were put under Real's care since he was trying the case to determine the true owners of the funds.

However, the US Supreme Court last year said it should be Philippine courts that should decide on the funds' rightful owners. The high court ordered Real to return the funds to Merrill Lynch. It was after this that claimants raised questions about Real's accounting of the money.

BF to push Palace bid

By Allison W. Lopez

WILL HIS POLITical will win?

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando said he will push through with his bid to run for president even if it means that he would break away from the administration party.

Fernando, who ranked the well-attended Luksa Kampi LMD convention yesterday said he sees no longer interested in participating in the party's affairs.

"I give up," he replied bluntly in Tagalog to explain why he was not at PEC on Thursday. "For I don't feel bad. That's politics."

He lost to Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro after party officials voted for their standard-bearer during the executive committee meeting in September.

Court orders antismuggling body to stop raids

By Tina G. Santos

A MANILA COURT YESTERDAY ordered Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Undersecretary Antonio Villar Jr. to stop the "overzealous" Anti-Smuggling Group (ASG) from conducting operations.

Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 20, issued a 20-day preliminary restraining order (TRO) extending Ermita and Villar's deputies, agents and other people claiming authority from enforcing Executive Order No. 634, the law which created the PASG.

Pampilo issued the order on the basis of a petition filed by alleged "Diamond Quarry," Ermita said.

Atty. Tito Alpha Book, who questioned the constitutionality of the PASG's existence.

Ermita and PASG chief Villar were named respondents to the case.

Irreparable injury

The judge said he was convinced that the petitioner has satisfied the legal requirements entitling them to the issuance of a TRO. The petitioner will suffer grave and irreparable injury unless a TRO is issued."

The court also ordered Ermita to post a P2-million bond.

The payment of the bond was imposed to ensure that the court will not be held liable for any damages that the PASG might suffer in case the court erred in its decision, said Book's lawyer, Bonifacio Ubongen.

The hearing on the preliminary injunction is set on Dec. 5.

Source of abuses

Apart from sending a TRO until preliminary injunction, Book, who was earlier arrested and detained by PASG for allegedly smuggling traditionalist gem worth of jewelry and precious gems, is also pushing for the outright abolition of the PASG.

In her petition, Book claimed that EO 634 had become a source of excessive abuses and official lawlessness.

Alleging said the creation of the PASG grossly violated the constitutional doctrines of separation of powers.

Duplication

He added that the power and functions of the PASG duplicated those of the Bureau of Customs, particularly with regard to addressing smuggling.

PASG agents staged a raid on Aug. 30 on Book's residence on the 27th floor of the Pacific Plaza in Ortigas, Pasig City, and arrested Book for allegedly illegally selling precious gems.

But the PASG officers never filed any criminal or administrative cases against Book in any court, tribunal, or quasi-judicial body in the Philippines, the lawyer said.

Without arrest warrant

"The ASG illegally arrested Book "without the benefit of any warrant to support the arrest, and on a mere suspicion of violating the Tariff and Customs Code. Clearly, she was not committing any offense at the time of her illegal arrest," Book said.

She claimed there were "no presiding case or any depositions (hangs)" against Book before the investigation bureau.

Moreover, Book was not allowed to post bail for her provisional liberty despite having filed a petition to post bail, as suggested by Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, for a noncitizen charged case, the lawyer added.

Book earlier filed charges of graft, arbitrary detention, violation of domicile, maliciously obtaining search warrants, perjury and unlawful arrest against Villar and seven other PASG officers.

Grenade attack

The Alliance of Concerned Truckers, Truckers, Importers and Organizations Nationwide is also calling for the abolition of the agency.

Jaguna Morales, president of the Professional Customs Brokers, yesterday claimed that an Known men hurled a grenade in front of his house in Marikina City yesterday morning.

While no one was hurt, he said his vehicle and part of his house were damaged.

In a press conference, he said he had no other suspect in mind but the PASG.

In a public hearing of the House committee on good government last week, Morales and PASG operatives would hold the consumer runs of importers and delay their release until a payment of P50,000 to P40,000 had been made for every container.

"Since then, I have been receiving death threats. I was told to fix my life, so I know that the PASG was behind the grenade attack on my house," he added.

The PASG was also accused by the Korean Chamber of Commerce of extorting money from Korean businessmen.

PASG denies extort charges against its agents

From page A1

Edward Chang, president of the Korean Chamber of Commerce, had reported the alleged attempt on PASG by Justice's team of agents in a Nov. 14 letter to Executive Secretary Edmundo Ermita.

Chang claimed that the PASG agents raided the Tanduo warehouse in Barangay Pasong Buaya, on Nov. 9, and shut down the PEMI Enterprises warehouse – even though no papers were in order.

"Members of the team suggested that they would allow partial deliveries if the management would come across. Since PGSS is doing legitimate business, it refused," Chang said.

To clarify the matter, Paterno can also furnished the Inquirer a copy of the letter of PEMI executive Won Sup Park to Justice, apologizing for the misdemeanor mention of concerns in Chang's letter.

Was claimed that after reading the letter, he advised Chang and a certain Attorney Villones to debate the portion on extortion "as it is not true."

"Maybe while I talked to attorney Villones, we have misunderstanding. But he said it was transmitted already as he cannot change the letter anymore. I requested him to talk to Sen. Eduardo Ermita and explain that this is not true when they have meeting later. That is what I said to them," Won said in a Nov. 12 letter to Justices.

"Anyway I am so sorry if you got offended because of this cause, in this regard, I am personally asking for an apology," he added.

Ermita, for his part, said he had not seen the letter, but said, "I'll look for it so I can attend to it."

He said he expected many people to be "frightened" by the PASG because of its serious antismuggling operations, but voiced hope that "nobody should have any reason to accuse the PASG agents of abuse."

PASG Chair Antonio Villar said reports claiming that some of his agents were extorting from Korean businessmen were part of a "demolition job" against the agency.

"No one could cite happen! I just had a meeting with the ambassador and charges d'affaires of South Korea (on Wednesday) and they thanked me for helping Korean businessmen," Villar said in a statement.

As sign of gratitude for his help, Villar and Ambassador Choi Joong Kyung even invited him to watch the South Korean Cultural show.

With this, the Korean ambassador sent Villar a text message, informing him that the Korean Chamber of Commerce president was not interviewed by the media and hence expressed his sincere apology for the newspaper report about the extortion.

"The Inquirer was able to interview Chang, the chamber president.]

"Presumably, the letter from the KCC to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has been leaked," the text message said.

In a statement, Chang said his letter to Ermita "was never meant to be distributed to the press, much less to be sent as a press release in its (BOD)'s name."

Chang said the chamber "regrets the leakage of private communications to the media as well as the failure to clarify the events after the letter."

"As of Nov. 10 or one day after its (the boycott) report (The) PASG believes that the whole situation has been misconstrued and apologize for any resulting misunderstanding," Chang said.

After PEMI behind any extortion attempt by the PASG, Ermita said last night that he saw no reason to further investigate the allegations of extortion.

"The letter said there's neither an extortion nor an attempt to commit extortion. That's helping this very matter if the letter of the chambers. What is there to investigate?" he said by phone.

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Tito Sotto quits drugs board to run for senator

By Nancy C. Carvajal

DANGEROUS DRUGS Board (DDB) Chair Vicente "Tito" Sotto III has resigned to run for senator under the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC) party.

Sotto, who served two terms in the Senate from 1995 to 2004, told a press conference at the DDB yesterday that he submitted his resignation letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday.

"I choose to take the path of public service through the gift of the Filipino people. Hindi ko hawak sa leeg ang Malacañang family when I have always declared that the war on drugs would be his main advocacy should he win.

He said that he would work to amend the anti-illegal drugs law, particularly Section 21 of Republic Act No. 9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

"We have to amend Section 21 because there have been instances where cases were dismissed at the prosecutor level because of witnesses who certified they were not named during the arrest search. The officers of our anti-drug operatives are scared after a final or court dismisses the charges based on Section 21," he said.

Section 21 states: "The apprehending team, having custody and control of the drugs, shall immediately after seizure and confiscation, physically inventory and photograph the same in the presence of the accused, representative of the media, and the Department of Justice, and any elected public official."

The provision also requires witnesses to sign copies of the inventory and to be given a copy.

Sotto said he would also propose a bill that would allow plea bargains for small-time drug suspects.

"With (some) basketball materialing ends, para-pasado (We won't snitch) ang big fish, just (a kind of small fish with) our presence system," he said.

"Legislative amendments are necessary to further make effective our fight against illegal drugs, and this has brought me into a moment of decision in my life today," Sotto said.

Sotto was the first female in 2007 with the administration's Team Unity coalition that lost. President Arroyo named him to the DDB last year.

He co-hosts the popular noontime TV show, "Eat Bulaga," although his appointment are not regular.

He said yesterday he would remain loyal to the NPC, even if the party did not have a presidential candidate for 2010.

"I would remain steadfast to the party, and I would leave it to the party leaders to fathom direction," he replied when asked if he would eventually run with another party.

Sotto was also asked if he had forgiven former President Joseph Estrada for dropping him in the last election to favor of other candidates.

"He confessed," he said, smiling.

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We find ways

Gibo and Edu: Game *na*!

From page A1

ing from the wave of sentimental support for his late parents—the assassinated Benigno Aquino Jr. and President Corazon Aquino.

The former defense chief invited fellow candidates to debate their respective platforms—clearly heeding the call of concerned Filipinos for an end to the politics of personalities in the upcoming campaign and address issues soaring in the nation's fabric.

Teodoro said there was no sure-fire way to prop up his ratings.

"The strategy is to try to win the votes of each and every Filipino through a combination of what you have to say, what you have to offer them, and a combination of their trust in you," he said.

"If I were discouraged, how about the person who has to rebuild his life? How about the person who lost everything after working so many years? We will catch up and we will win."

He said this was due for sure out of government, "the true Gibo will come out."

PRESIDENT Arroyo beams as her party's vice presidential candidate Edu Manzano pays his respects on Thursday during the Lakas-Kampi-CMD national convention. —EDWIN BACASMAS

Substance over popularity

At 8 is clear that the party valued substance over popularity, Teodoro talked at length about his platform of governance, on top of which is his advocacy of a person's right to life, and of the family as a basic social unit, a program supported by the influential Philippine Catholic Church hierarchy.

Teodoro said he would meet this commitment by "narrowing families in the exercise of their right to have a roof over their head, the right to have food on its table, the right to send their children to school and the rights of the parents to a decent livelihood."

To ensure the people's exercise of their human rights, he said he would address the three faces of poverty. Poverty of the mind, poverty of the pocket, poverty of the environment and the poverty of relationships.

To provide relaxation for all, Teodoro proposed that the price be given a driver's share in the annual national income, and that access to tertiary education be made universal.

"The state shall institute innovative financial arrangements to enable each home to have a college diploma, and in every family, a college graduate. Indigent families shall be automatically and universally covered by state health insurance and shall pay no excise fees for their health care and hospitalization," he said.

Say out of poverty

To stamp out poverty, Teodoro said people should be enticed to become entrepreneurs, and small businesses given access to capital and credit and to "upgrade infrastructure" to stimulate the economy.

"It's a good start, we shall modernize the infrastructure the land, sea and air transportation. Both our highways on land and highways on the seas should be safe and secure for commerce and travel. Our railway system should provide a physical backbone to our main islands of Luzon, Cebu and Mindanao, and simultaneously linking more islands by landgoes making possible seamless travel from the north of Luzon, through the Visayas and on to the south of Mindanao," he said.

Teodoro said he agreed with the idea of reducing the country's dependence on imported energy and "contribute to the global reduction in emissions by optimizing the opportunities in green energy—renewable and indigenous."

"We reiterate our commitment to strengthening the four pillars of our society. These pillars are: Pro-God, prosperity, possessory, and protection. Sweat," he added.

Wholesale condemnation

After an attempt at humor, Manzano became combative, blasting critics relenting his attempt to seek the second highest office in the land.

He said not only doctors, lawyers and businessmen had the right to be voted upon.

"In questioning my qualification for the vice presidency simply because of one of my professions, my detractors viciously made a wholesale condemnation of close to the entertainment industry as being unfit and incapable of providing competent leadership," Manzano said.

Wearing dark gray long sleeves and black slacks, he told his critics "do not confine me to affect, deny me qualities the intellectual capacity of everyday Filipinos to decide who their leaders should be."

More than just looks

"Any candidate always looks for someone who can boost his chances and I would only be so glad to help brave-ry Gibo," Manzano said, citing the case of Sen. John McCain who had tapped Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate in last year's US elections.

But unlike Palin, he said, "I bring a little bit more to the table than just celebrity appeal."

"They conveniently close their eyes and minds to the fact that I have had training and experience in the military. I have worked in the banking and shipping industries before entering the field of entertainment and the political arena," Manzano said in his speech.

"But beyond that, and more than the gravity of good intentions, I also offer my honest labor, my personal integrity and dedication to duty, fortified by my experiences in local governance and law enforcement."

'In very good shape'

Asked about his chances against Sen. Mar Roxas, the running mate of Aquino, Manzano cited Teodoro's well-applauded speech and said, "I think we're in a very good shape."

Teodoro took the crucial first step at improving his miserable ratings by naming his party's televised convention into an infomercial, some half-style gesture, to get his political stance and campaign platform across a live audience.

Fluent in English, he took pains to speak in Filipino, talking about a wide range of topics such as science and the arts and bringing hope to compatriots reeling abroad and victims of the recent typhoons.

Obama-like eloquence

But Teodoro's eloquence clearly suffered a bit when he switched from his professed mastery English, platform-heavy speech to Obama-like delivery during the first half of his acceptance speech.

A case in point: "Our destiny is our enemy, get by. Our destiny is to lead and to conquer and conquer we shall because we must."

The initial part of the speech also sounded too formal that Teodoro appeared to have taken a leaf from the late Pope John Paul II's "Lahoman Ikaroma" encyclical on the value and dignity of human toil.

"Every Filipino has a right to be fully employed, because it is in work that a person finds his fulfillment as a human being and gains the means to secure his dignity," Teodoro said.

GMA rallies Lakas troops for May polls

From page A1

and fortify our party for the elections/battle ahead."

"Let us transform the Lakas-Kampi-CMD party from the party of the present to become the party of the future," Ms Arroyo said.

"Our first things first. Let us get them elected," she said, with "na big a number as you our leaders in the countryside and rebel-centers can win from our people."

Absent were former President Fidel V. Ramos—whose ebullient and flippant demands of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority who is himself running for president.

This week, the coalition was rocked by defections to the Liberal Party (LP) by former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto, his wife Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos, and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte, an vice president for external affairs.

Absent, too, in the Armenian Pavilion in Quezon City Bohemian and Caloocan Mayor Recto Echiverri were seen to an inattempt of the LP. (See related story on Page A12.)

Those are on top of the casualties of local officials to the LP and the Nacionalista Party, among others.

Idealism, confidence, youth

Ms Arroyo, who turned over the party chairmanship to Teodoro but stayed on as presidential emeritus, drummed up support for Teodoro and Manzano.

She said the two candidates possessed the idealism, youthfulness and youth "to move the nation forward" toward ramping out poverty, and bringing the country on the "verge of First World within a generation."

Edu wins Lakas nod, loses love

From page A1

"Unfortunately, that is true. You said 'sorry.' Yes, I am sorry na," he told reporters, now of a spokesman's statement about his love life in the middle of a political convention.

"The personal aspect, I think we should keep to ourselves. I don't think it's going to have a real ... impact on the campaign," he said, adding:

"Some things will just not go the way we planned it, but you sometimes have ... to play the cards you're dealt."

'Daunting challenge'

In his acceptance speech, Manzano described his planned run as "a daunting challenge that I find more difficult to reject."

"I did not seek this position," he said. "This nomination is the culmination of a series of meetings and discussions with persons I highly respect and who believe that I have what it takes—not only to help the party achieve victory but [also] to make a truly meaningful contribution toward changing for the better the social and economic landscape of our country."

"Please allow me to declare clearly and categorically that I have never turned my back on any call to serve our country and people," he added.

Asked if the breakup with Webb had something to do with his decision to run for vice president, Manzano said: "No, I wouldn't say that."

Conflict of interest

But a source close to the couple said the breakup could have been intended to avoid conflict of interest over Webb's being an employee of the ABS-CBN broadcasting network.

"It's possible that Webb decided to break up with Edu because she didn't want to do a Korina Sanchez," said the source, who asked not to be named because of the sensitive nature of the subject.

Sanchez, ABS-CBN chief of correspondents and program host, owns on a leave of absence in May.

She was then engaged to reality Sen. Ejercito "Erap" Estrada, who was then planning to run for president under the Liberal Party ticket in last night. "That's when we all found out Edu was running for vice president. Policy was shocked. Over the weekend, she asked me for a leave. I said she should [go on leave]. She needed to sort things out."

No-no-no

The source said Webb's work was "important to her."

"She didn't want to be forced to take a break while her fiancee is campaigning. [Continuing to work in the case is not allowed at] ABS-CBN," the source said.

Some personality that she had issued a memo ordering Webb to go on leave: "There was no memo. Any journalist tries to avoid conflict ... We're very careful about it. However, I didn't want to talk to her about it at that point. She was really upset."

A close friend of Manzano's said he had been "very quiet" and "lost his sound self" since the breakup.

"Of course he's sad," the friend said. "He just has so much on his mind right now—his candidacy, his love life and right—that he doesn't have time to deal with the issue just yet."

In an interview with Tina Monzon-Palma on ANC's "Talkback," Manzano said his decision to run for vice president came in a flash to Webb.

But she assured him of her support, he said.

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LP tightens grip on Metro

THE LIBERAL PARTY (LP) appeared to have secured its grip on the National Capital Region with the other entry out-shot of Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Caloocan City Mayor Recto Echiverri.

The defection of the two mayors from the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition is seen to boost the chances of victory of the LP standard-bearer Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and his running mate, Sen. Ahmad "Mar" Roxas, in the May 2010 polls.

Earlier, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim joined forces with the LP.

Aquino presided over the oath taking of the new LP members, including Belmonte, his daughter Jen Belmonte, and Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, at the Araneta Multipurpose Hall in Quezon City.

"I'm happy ... This is a gathering of like-minded people," Aquino said in a speech.

In his own speech, Roxas said the LP was swelling with new recruits who want to "bring in power a new administration that would (instill) massive reforms and good governance."

"[The other parties] entice members with promises of money. As for us, we have no money. In fact, we will be asking money from you [instead]," he said.

Former Quezon City Aquino and Roxas succeed to Caloocan City for Echiverri's screening in.

Thousands of members—mostly clad in yellow shirts and waving the "L"—Lakas (Kampi—ops popular-

ized by Aquino's mother, the late former President Corazon Aquino, welcomed their arrival at the Araneta Coliseum.

Echiverri told reporters that his decision to move to the LP was effected mainly by "the pulse of his constituents" and not due to any misunderstanding with Lakas.

He said that prior to his move, he commissioned a survey among Caloocan residents and found that 60 percent of them would vote for Aquino.

Echiverri is now the official LP candidate for mayor of Caloocan, the third largest city in Metro Manila in terms of population.

Many of those who attended the mayor's oath taking were barangay leaders who filled out application forms on the spot and were later sworn in by his local LP members.

Mayor Belmonte, who was the Lakas-Kampi-CMD's executive vice president for external affairs, said moving in the LP was "not an easy decision to make."

"But I think this is the right time," he said.

Belmonte told reporters that he did not formally inform the Lakas leadership of his move to the LP.

"I just asked an official to tell them. I am sure they are not happy about it," he said, chuckling.

Belmonte will run for Quezon City congressman in the 3rd District, a grooming for the mayor's seat, and Joy Belmonte, for vice mayor.

"It cannot be said that we are joining the LP because of opportunism. I have long wanted to join the LP and I believe in the power of the Noynoy-Mar tandem," Belmonte said.

Joy Belmonte is stepping into Quezon City politics for the first time.

"I have always wanted to begin my political career with this party which shares my beliefs and sensibilities," she told reporters.

Said Roxas: "It's a very big honor for us to accept their membership. Mayor Belmonte has a very good track record and we are humbled by their trust in us."

Asked by the reporters about comments that the LP was losing significant reform agenda by endorsing the very people who had once supported President Macapagal-Arroyo, Aquino said:

"It is not my ambition to do an either [instead of] musical thesis. It is the issues and the support of the people that positions."

Aquino also said that not all those wanting to join the LP were being accepted without the consensus of party members and allied groups.

"Most of all, [applicants] have to advance the LP agenda. If we feel they cannot, then they will not be accepted. If I mix, my agenda has to be their agenda too," he said.

He added that the merging of traditional groups and nontraditional groups backing his campaign would make the LP a more effective party in 2010. *Reports from Fe Zamora, Julie M. Aurelio and Gerry P. Nemenzo*

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Pacquiao back today

ing red carpet" welcome that will include, after the usual motorcade through the metropolis, a moment of rare "parangal" for the champ at the Quirino Grandstand, where he will be honored by President Macapagal-Arroyo with an award usually given to statesmen.

Nearly 2,000 policemen are being deployed to various parts of Metro Manila as part of security measures.

The office of Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, the boxer's friend, said Pacquiao was requested to arrive at 5:30 a.m. at the Senate Session Complex Terminal 2 aboard Philippine Airlines.

Already, talk is swirling that Pacquiao's next ring bat may well be American Floyd Mayweather Jr. in what promises to be the richest fight in boxing history.

In a phone interview the other day, Boxing Federation Secretary Adviser Luis "Chavit" Singson, another close friend of Pacquiao, said: "Win or lose, Manny will get $50 million" in a deal with Mayweather.

"The $50 million payday is just for the fight. The bigger money will come from pay-per-view and on-board fees to get a minimum $100 million," Singson said.

Singson's claim may sound too good to be true but he said he was basing his information on talks he said he had with US promoter Bob Arum and former boxing champion Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions.

'Politics can wait'

Singson said that top till now the biggest purse in boxing history was received by De La Hoya and Mike Tyson, who each reportedly once earned between $30 million and $45 million for a single fight.

Singson's estimate was a lot of clamor not only in the United States but from all over the world for Pacquiao to fight Mayweather.

Singson, who is accompanying Pacquiao on his re-ers from the United States, said a fight with Mayweather should be held before June next year in order to ride on the momentum of the re-ing of Pacquiao.

But Singson said the deal was unlikely considering that Pacquiao was serious in running for Congress in the May 2010 elections.

Singson said Pacquiao was still young and had yet to reach his peak in boxing, which was why some people were discouraging him from going to more opponents.

"We're still convincing him that boxing should be his top priority right now because politics can wait," he said.

Newest jewel

The latest jewel in Pacquiao's crown was his 13-round demolition of Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto in last Vegas last week, which gave the pound-for-pound king his unprecedented seventh world title in seven divisions.

Bursary of a romantic liaison with veteran Kris Aquino, Pacquiao has aroused speculation by his frequent visits to Aquino's home and his decision to allow the media to report his ring bouts and "not the private lives of people."

From the airport on his return today, Pacquiao is expected to proceed to the Senate, since Atienza City should wheels, officials said, but will freshen up before hosting Mass at the Quezon Church at 9 a.m.

According to his schedule, Pacquiao will then motor to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) central office in Quezon City for a 9:30 a.m. courtesy call on Atienza, his usual practice before and after a big fight.

At the DENR, Pacquiao will be showered with confetti, tubes and blue confetti, streamers said.

Atienza considers Pacquiao "the country's No. 1 national treasure and a perfect role model of our national wealth."

Pacquiao supports wildlife advocacy and the protection of the Philippine eagle and carnivit, opposes illegal logging and is a campaigner for reforestation.

'Parangal kay Manny'

The traditional motorcade for the conquering hero will start from the DENR at around 10 a.m., making its way along Quezon Ave., going to Espana.

The motorcade will make a right turn to Lacson, left to Pavia, right to Morayta, left to R.H. Alonzo, straight to Juan Rodriguez, left to Padre Gil, right to Taft, left to Buendia, right to Ayala, and left to Makati Avenue, where it will end at the Pag-ibig building.

In a "Parangal kay Manny Pacquiao sa Quirino," Mr. Arroyo will confer the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu, on the boxing king at the Quirino grandstand at 4 p.m., reliewhoknows.

The Order of Sikatuna is normally awarded "for distinguished service in the field of foreign relations," according to an executive order that created it. It is usually awarded to diplomats, officials and nationals of foreign citizens.

Pacquiao will be in good company. Previous recipients included US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the late Pope Cardinal Sin.

The official welcome has been prepared by different agencies, including the Office of the President, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Metro Manila Development Authority.

The Quirino Grandstand affair is a departure from previous welcomes for Pacquiao in the past few years, when only a courtesy call on Mr. Arroyo in Malacañang before embarking on a motorcade.

"We're expecting a lot of people to welcome Pacman so apart from the 900 personnel in Quezon, there will be a thousand others in the deployed during the motorcade and his other efforts," said Supt. Romeo Salvador, public information chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

Reach honored, too

Before the Luneta ceremony, Pacquiao will be part of a Solar Sports event from noon to 2 p.m. at the Mall of Asia's SMX convention center.

It's not only Pacquiao that will be honored.

Lawmakers led by Speaker Prospero Nograles have filed a resolution recognizing the valor of Pacquiao's American trainer, Freddie Roach, in his own right.

The other authors of the resolution are Bohol Representatives Imelda Tawig, Rene Velarde and Ma. Carlota Colonel.

"Because of the more evil known trainers in the world, Freddie Roach is the missing hero on the movement of Manny Pacquiao, defeating the latter into a multidimensional fighter," the lawmakers said.

"Roach is considered one of boxing's all-time greats and has trained 24 world champions, like Mike Tyson, Oscar de la Hoya, James Toney, Manny Pacquiao and other great boxing champions," they said. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Allison W. Lopez, Leila B. Salaverria and Inquirer Research*

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Spanish Meatballs

Combine 350g ground pork, 450g banana heart (trimmed and chopped), 2 pc large eggs, 1 pc large onion (chopped) 1-1/2 tsp iodized fine salt (or 1-1/2 tbsp iodized rock salt), 3-1/2 stalks green onion (chopped), 1/3 tsp pepper and 5 tbsp all-purpose flour. Mix well into balls. Deep-fry until golden brown. Set aside.

Saute 5 cloves garlic (crushed), 1 pc large onion (chopped), 1/4 kg sayote (sliced) and 1 pouch (220g) DEL MONTE Filipino Style Tomato Sauce. Add 3 to 3-1/2 cups water, 1-1/4 tsp iodized fine salt (or 1-1/4 tbsp iodized rock salt), 1/4 tsp pepper and 2-1/2 tsp sugar. Simmer for 10 minutes. Add meatballs. Serve at once.

Makes 10-12 servings.

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INQUIRER
OPINION

Untangling Luisita

THE EMERGENCE OF SEN. BENIGNO "NOYNOY" Aquino III as the galloping front runner in the 2010 presidential race has directed national attention back to Hacienda Luisita. The large estate, at over 6,000 hectares when described as the second biggest contiguous family-owned property in the country, is owned in large part by the extended family of the late President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino. An ever-

EDITORIAL clever interpretation of agrarian reform 20 years ago created a hybrid enterprise which allowed farmers to own 33 percent of Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) through the so-called stock distribution option. (Some 33 Cojuangco heirs own the rest.) In other words, the farmer-beneficiaries received stock certificates, not land titles. (This mode of land acquisition has since been disallowed under the CARP-extension law, or Carpe.)

In 2004, labor disputes combined with agrarian unrest to form a combustible mix in Luisita: a police dispersed operation ignited the mix, killing seven farmers. In 2006, the Presidential Agrarian Reform Committee revoked the SDO, citing various conditions and blatant violations. Blocking the case to the Supreme Court, the estate's management won a writ of preliminary injunction, putting the revocation of the SDO—and more to the point, the redistribution of land the Department of Agrarian Reform was ready to effect—on hold.

This much is clear:

Luisita is not only a legal case, an agricultural concern or a social justice test; it is a highly political issue. The Arroyo administration has come to rather late to the near-vested controversy, but its plan of attack is obvious. Gary Olivar, who spends for President Macapagal-Arroyo on unhealthy economic matters, reduced the case, which is pending before the high court, into a PR opportunity for Aquino. "This gives him a chance to clear his name and avoid being a pinnatte [sic] in the court of public opinion," Olivar said.

The sullmar left, which has struck a political alliance with Sen. Manuel Villar, one of the country's biggest real estate magnates, took up the Luisita farmers' cause many years ago. But when Rep. Satur Ocampo, a guest sensitive-rial candidate of the Nacionalista Party, says, "Logic dictates that the farmers will press this issue because now, more than ever, a fair and just solution to the problem is possible with the DARs decision to junk the stock distribution option between the farm workers and the Cojuangco family," he inadvertently reveals that in fact it is precisely Aquino's candidacy that has given new life to the case. The "logic" he is referring to is skewed in nature.

The point is: Aquino and his family should not waste time pleading with critics or with agrarian reform advocates not to politicize the issue. By itself, it is already political. They must deal with it.

This much, too, has become clear: The parties involved have all taken steps that complicate any possible resolution. HLI's decision to register new villages has riled both the unions and DAR; but the "bungkalan" or cultivation system many farmers have resorted to to make ends meet since the strike of 2004 has worried HLI.

The young Aquino, who is reported to own only 1.1 percent of the Cojuangco's holding company Limd (but less than one percent of the entire itself), is now presented with a dilemma: To keep faith with his ancestors and fight the Arroyo administration's proposed redistribution of the land, or to convince his relatives to withdraw their suit and facilitate the redistribution.

It seems he himself thinks there is a middle way. "From 1988 to 2004, residents and workers had jobs. From 2004 to 2009, they had no jobs. My focus is how to get them back to their jobs, how to get them jobs," he said last week. If we link this to an earlier statement of his, that the family was thinking of letting go of Luisita because of the large debts it had incurred, it is possible that he—as presidential candidate, not as minority stockholder—is considering selling the estate to another large landowner, or a major business concern. This, however, will only serve to solve the problem.

The spirit of agrarian reform dictates that those entitled should own the land they till.

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Central issue of 2010 race is integrity

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IN THE THIRD PRE-ELECTION SURVEY conducted by two leading polls organizations since he announced his bid on Sept. 9 for the presidency in the May 2010 election, Sen. Benigno Aquino III has locked his position as the front-runner in a field of eight.

The latest of three surveys, conducted nationwide by Pulse Asia from Oct. 23 to 30, showed Aquino topping the poll with 44 percent of the vote. He led his closest rival, Sen. Manuel Villar, by a 2-to-1 margin. Villar polled 19 percent. The next most struggling (5-6%) in the race, with Sen. Francis Escudero gaining 13 percent and former President Joseph Estrada garnering 11 percent, while the others got single-digit results, almost nothing them out of contention. The last group was composed of Vice President Noli de Castro, 4 percent; Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, 2 percent; Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, 1 percent; and evangelist "Brother" Eduardo Villanueva, 1 percent. The Pulse Asia survey effectively eliminated the three last in four serious contenders: Aquino, Villar, Estrada. Escudero is possibly Teodoro.

The survey results proved to be a nightmare for Villar, who had led the pack before Aquino declared his bid. He had been hammered by the death of his mother, President Corazon Aquino. Aquino's entry into the race is considered to be the turning point of the 2010 presidential campaign; it drastically altered the political fortunes of all the presidential contenders, especially Villar.

Villar was hoping that the Aquino bubble would burst and that he could catch up with the Aquino juggernaut. It never did. There was no latent, hidden support for the man to burst and fill. Aquino seems to have made his first or a feel of quickening contest.

In the Pulse Asia survey, Aquino's rating was 44 percent. Survey results the most from 38 percent reported in 2005. There was no increase in level of a similar result: a huge majority vote for Aquino, a result that seldom occurred in the past Marcos multi-party elections installed by the regime of President Corazon Aquino after democracy was restored by the People Power Revolution of 1986.

In Pulse Asia's surveys in August, before Aquino declared his presidential bid, Villar polled 25 percent. This dropped to 19 percent in October.

The latest survey was timed than other presidential aspirants who were among the leading group in the polls of Aquino improved or declined in every preference between August and October 2009, the biggest drop in interested support was experienced by De Castro, who lost 11 percentage points. Estrada declined by 8 percentage points. Teodoro gained one percentage point, while Escudero gained two.

Whether or not Aquino will continue to hold his wide margin in the election approaches is a matter of conjecture. Villar and Aquino's other rivals have consoled their misfortune by saying the lid, having reached the high of possible legitimate preferences. Others say the trend will be Aquino's passport bonds on agrarian reform in relation to their ownership of Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, and even the immaturity of the Aquino administration in social issues. Aquino's mental qualities have also come under attack. Another criticism is that he is unbeatable for the presidency not mainly on the public service record of his parents and that he would be living little out of the presidency. But all these attacks do not seem to have significantly dented the groundswell of public goodwill he enjoys in the survey.

The Pulse Asia survey found that the reasons most often cited in voting preference for a presidential candidate is his close public record ("matiyak"—or not being corrupt ("hindi nakakakot"). The survey found that two out of every 10 Filipinos (21.2 percent) are voting for a particular candidate because they believe he is not corrupt, a result cited by lower respondents in May and August 2009.

In May 2009, the leading reason for voting was a candidate's being helpful to others (34 percent), while in August 2009, the top reason cited was a candidate's being trusty to accomplish. (25.2 percent) and the latter being pro-poor (20.3 percent). Currently, 14 percent are most cited to vote for a presidential candidate because of his/her competence. 11.2 percent have a candidate because he/she helps others, while 8.6 percent stated as being helpful to everyone. Another 8.6 percent cited as being built to campaign or the theme of being helpful to everyone. Filipino voters for which people he has spent a considerable sum.

The survey also found that the top-of-the-mind reasons for electing a presidential candidate has been the performance of his/her family (34.2 percent) and his/her being virtuous or "mother" (17 percent).

These findings suggest a qualitative shift in the values sought by Filipinos in their leaders in this election. These values are highlighted not only in the issues of integrity and honesty in public service. These values are symbolized in the campaign themes: Filipinos crave for a leader whose integrity they can trust. That is the central issue in this election.

Hunger in theory and practice

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

READ OR BETTER KNOWN AS THE HOMELESS—"man in the street," but Ruben Bautista or anybody else with little insight over his better known as the parents of Kimsa, currently a student at the Berkeley campus of the University of California.

Kimsa is one of three resident assistants at Berkeley's Unit 3 dormitory (Stern Hall) and a main organizer of the "Hunger Banquet," a project aimed at raising awareness of hunger in the world.

According to the campus publication described the setting: "About 13 students were seated at tables, and trainers brought them parts and salad. A bigger group of students received nothing but rice and beans. A handful of students received rice and beans, as well as a piece of chicken. Those who sat on the floor to share a meager meal of just rice and water."

As Bautista explained: "We placed them in different tiers to represent how the income apportionment in the world, and we fed them according to their tier. The feedback we got from the students was that they were appreciative of the opportunity to take action, because that's what people usually want to do. They want to be involved in the world. But even a few dollars can make a difference if a lot of people get involved."

Indeed, getting people to care for those hunger is just an abstract concept to think about the issue and more but it is their gut takes stall, pain. But to the credit of Kimsa and her colleagues, they not only convinced many of their fellow students to forgo their meals and contribute their money to the cause, but also managed to establish the link between individual eating habits and hunger experienced by the rest of the world. Congratulations, then, and just to Kimsa but also to Ruben and classmates who dedicated their daughters (Kimsa has a younger sister) right.

ON THE home front, hunger is not enough on the dread concept as to daily reality, especially for the growing number of Filipinos who regard three, often as poor and struggling.

For some years now, the government has been engaged in an "Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program," with the National Nutrition Council spearheading oversight. The council is chaired by Health Secretary (and recently declared former commissioner Francisco Duque, and includes the heads of different agencies, some of which may not be directly linked—at least to the popular mind—to reducing hunger, but whose empowerment has a key aspect in alleviating it.

There are, for example, the Population Commission, which develops policy and programs regarding population growth and management. One of its main objectives is the promotion of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Policy Planning (RPRHPP) measure, whose opponents say it ought not just the basics of modern RH but also the requirements of responsible parenthood and responsible use of resources.

Then there's the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, which is tasked to adopt HPR spearheaded by the Homeless Eyes Method. Previously, Manila was using an ERA to protect homeless people (another component) but was experiencing difficulty and the president from it. Also involving an EPM/HPP measure, the Housing Council is tasked to adopt the HDM, which involves using a string of funds as a guide to tell them when it was "safe" and "unsafe" to have sex, the better to plan their families. Those who don't do that have been able to raise their three children comfortably on Emilio's income as a cook. Aside from being able to send their children to school and more than fairly meals without needless worries, they've been able to help their own kids to buy their own gadgets and to travel to Hong Kong.

TRYSTING couples with the means to plan their family size may not seem to be a hunger-related issue, especially for the growing complaint, the reinforcement to plan their future, the breakdown thereof, and the information they need to successfully practice family planning. The state is an effort helping them to more responsibly make decisions about their families and themselves, allowing them to live a better life and make better choices.

'Hams' for sale and other scandals

LOOKING BACK

Sandwich K. Geaga-An

WITH ELECTIONS AROUND THE CORNER, YOU can be sure that we will have many different scandals to delight or flatter us. Many of these scandals concern graft and corruption, which should really be brought out in the open and concluded in court with a tidy finish, but the scandals that really engage and titillate are those of a personal nature, the sin-ners that should not see the light of day.

That's why I acquired a bound volume of "The Philippines Graph" (1909)—only to be disappointed when I saw the contents were quite tame. I blamed my expensive mistake on the late Candido Cruz who came to our home every other Sunday to cut our hair. He was a barber by profession but never studied for the Kalaw Barber shop in Ermita but did home service because he or my father's best bag before he got married and had children. Once, during cutting I saw he wanted a bring in previous Manila cutting newspapers in the morning. He had no other reading material. I suppose I once called to mind that the barber was "educated" when "educating in a poor man's corner or in Baguio."

Inside, there was a story of yet another con woman who had been convicted of P100 by a Sulpicio. The congressman had the that' arrested, but in the end he couldn't file charges because bringing the case to court would make his secret public.

There was nothing new in the scandals reported, graft and corruption, even during the booming age. There was still bidding division, supervision and the usual go-around offices of Manila's 400, proving that we have not changed very much in people and nature in the past century. If there's any difference at all, it is the size and scope of the scandals. We do things big time these days.

Scandal sells in August, with articles on Quezon City Hospital, the intriguing name of Quezon "Open Letter" Elevator, "Hams and Sound"; that was just casual reporting, just gossip. Unlike the current columnists today that concentrate on the same people week after week, Scandal had more meat than flesh, because high places had not as a monopoly on scandals. Scandal had more meat than flesh, because high places had not as a monopoly on scandals. Scandal had more meat than flesh, because high places had not as a monopoly on scandals. Scandal had more meat than flesh, because high places had not as a monopoly on scandals.

Scandal had double standards: it was outspoken but careful not to offend. Nothing subversive happened but there were still innuendos that were advertisements for "Bisaya Ham" that most women then still glass over but since I am always searching for food in Philippine history I was supposed to discover that these "refreshment parlors" sold a different kind of ham.

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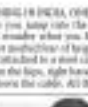
Thrills

I PROMISE WHAT'S ABOUT UPLOADING 10 IDEAS, ONE OF those crazy moments in life where you jump into the unknown. Basically in this case I then wonder when you have gotten yourself into. I have an almost instinctive of heights, yet in India, I agreed to have myself attached to a steel cable, a harness around the waist and down the hips, right head-to-a gulley which allowed me to zip down the cable. All this a first hundred meters above the ground.

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tee

While preparing to do my column on that zipline adventure, I realized that the Philippines actually had several, and not just one, as

plores. After my column came out, I was surprised by the number of readers who wrote in. Most of the letters were from satisfied readers who apparently got quite a kick reading about the thrills they experienced in different locations.

But you and other readers also mentioned ziplining places other than what I listed in my columns, so I thought of doing an update. Before we get to that list though, I'll do some methodology.

My initial concern, as readers wrote in about the zipline places, is the safety requirements of ziplining, one sort of mountain. It's not cheap to set up a zipline place, so the business people involved here must have studied the market, and the service would pay off.

Adrenaline junkies

After thinking some more about ziplining, I figured that its popularity should not surprise us. Psychologically, we Filipinos are risk-takers—no, let me be bolder and say we seek risks and enjoy them; in other words, we're thrill-seekers. We seem to be adventure junkies, looking for activities with some risk, and enjoying the surge of adrenaline through our bodies as our engage in those extreme activities.

I don't look in this thrill-seeking as a biological trait but as something cultural. Maybe it developed in the context of our ancestors' lives as fishermen and as seafarers. With each boat, some of the fishermen ran in the open sea was quite ideal.

But it could also have developed in other ecological contexts. Last month, the Inquirer had an article about ziplining of another kind: the use of ziplines to transport goods. Surrogates to their mountainous terrain, and the disasters-ridden people had improvised ziplines mainly to transport food. But the line was apparently used as well to transport patients who needed to be brought somewhere for medical care.

In another it's a combination of our many different kinds of risk-taking activities, tied to our love of food or just plain fun. But how many as we used to risks, even finding pleasure when taking the risks.

Let's get on down to the list of ziplines I have uncovered, or learned about. I want to acknowledge Ilijan Feats of Bukidnon who were one the most comprehensive listing with lengths of the ziplines in the country. Interestingly I learn that "wires" are dangerous, and now that I've withdrawn to the ziplines, I agree. The ones in the Philippines here you flitted with steel harnesses, and most have you zipping around some like, according to Ilijan, "Superman or Wonder Woman," meaning you stretch yourself out horizontally and zip down the cable like a bullet. Some of the ziplines are quite high and really quite handle ourselves, pulling our knees up almost to a fetal position (but not feeling totally safe).

Zipping through the islands

Let's get to the zipline places in the Philippines.

The closest one to Manila is on Tagaytay. They have a website: www.zipline-tagaytay.com. It operates daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and costs P1,500 per person. Another one is also in Tagaytay, but the zipline could not be found: seems to have a web so you have to go to clubadventuretagaytay.com to look for the zipline place.

There's one in Cebu, Bohol, but I still haven't been able to get more information except through a newspaper article. Google "Cebu zipline Bohol."

Regarding ziplines in Camp Sabtang, Ilijan, I found a good write-up in pinoyadventures.com, an intriguing website which lots of travel information.

Davao City apparently has three places: Project Challenge Tadeco, Outland Adventures and Dig City, which makes me wonder again about my adventurous hyperactive. Living in Davao could be a dangerous proposition! I still have to come to visit, since you think about low-and-order vegetables who wipe out people they suspect to be criminals).

Actually, the entire Mindanao again can be because it's a frontier area, has more ziplines than anywhere else in the Philippines. There's one in Mapanas Mount Hotel in Cagayan de Oro, which is the closest to Camiguin. Another is in Bukidnon, but Unfortunate write-up on a travel site pinoyadventures.com.

Bukidnon has two, one in Wangcagan Cove and the other, with which Ilijan is connected, is Lipanas at Dahilayan Adventure Park in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon (09189225696). Ilijan says they have 1350 meter, 320 meter and 940 meter ziplines; the first longest one is the one I will try, to come to see, when

LETTERS

Tax on 'investments in democracy' baseless

WE TRUST THAT ACTING BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE Commissioner Joel Tan Torres will live up to the standards set by his predecessors...Alaan Inquiston IV and Lilian Hefti, two good public servants, with their excess of candor and deficiency in collection. I for latter.

unjustly, for causes not of their own making and beyond their control).

The last paragraph of Sec. 12 of Republic Act 7166, says: "Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate or political party or coalition of parties for campaign purposes, duly reported to the Commission shall not be subject to the payment of any gift tax." I became law in 1991, when I was in the Senate. There were those of us who nearly fell off our seats when some of our 1987 donors were assessed taxes by the BIR. I recall that early on day I went to the BIR to investigate, because we could not tell our donors to cough up further, it had not been done before, to our knowledge. "Here, sir, not for, Sen. Serio," gently said the supposed commissioner then, in effect.

I did not spend a single centavo of my own in 1987. I had donors all over the land, but all of whom I owe a debt of gratitude. I gave my money as are had nothing really. After I won, we returned it intact. We did not need the P1 million. But, from what I read, even that would have been taxed, as a loan, advance, whatever.

I could not believe that an investment in political expenses, in simple electronics, and voting for a platform a candidate represents, would be taxable. The law speaks clause would seem to argue against it, for one thing. The gift to an investment in the political process, in democracy, a hallowed institutional arrangement. I believe and we can express our opinion in law, and sweep away all opposition. Then, RA 7166, during our watch.

When you support a candidate, you support what he stands for. The new BIR chief's policy, at sea seemingly with our legislative intent, would have a tremendous chilling effect on expression and participation, in that respect, weak in democracy which is committed to leveling the playing field. Here I in a modest business and would like to donate to a bet, I say when I would have to register with a withholding agent. Were I in a big business, I might donate only in the side which can fun me one.

What Commissioner Torres reportedly wants to do could not have been the legislative intent. I hope to have edification on just what law he bases his widely publicized program to collect campaign taxes—with unutterable chilling effect on expression and participation in democracy. I hope our new leadership that will give our people a better life.

—ELVA BAUTISTA,
chair, Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism Inc. (Mabini), Makati City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to fax 897-4783, 897-4784, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are required to include their complete address, telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

What's wrong with GMA's running for House seat?

THE RULE IS THAT PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL Arroyo will run for Congress in the May 2010 elections. Her critics see this as an outrageous attempt to dodge criminal prosecution after the steps down from the presidency. I find this reason rather shallow; a member of Congress has no immunity from suit. I

Others believe it is part of a bigger plan to make her prime minister when the government shifts to parliamentary. Well, that's how some political analysts, including the all-knowing, omnipresent, omniscient media, see it. Knowing, media each other in trying to make sense of GMA's frequent visits to her hometown; she must be chuckling in delight over the guessing game.

Well, there's no law banning her from running for Congress. Her should she run, columnist Randy David feels it would be more unfair to rival candidates because she has access to the vast resources of the presidency. If that does, wasn't the odds of winning remain the same if my, a super rich and powerful candidate like Eduardo "Tanding" Cojuangco were in the race?

I cannot agree more with David who has expressed his misgivings quite well, but I believe those concerns are best left to the electorate of that Pampanga district. Let them decide what they believe is good for them. What I find more distressing is the creeping Macapagal-Arroyo political dynasty, which the Commission shall lower. Political dynasties have become rampant. Like the politicians who seek another public office even before their current term is up, the senator who vacated his seat to serve as mayor).

This practice is opportunistic, unethical, dishonest and shameful. The oath of office of an elected official is an affirmation of the covenant between him and his constituents. The oath is a commitment to serve his people faithfully for a full term and to the best of his ability. Breaking that covenant and leaving his constituents in the middle of his term to pursue a personal ambition is a betrayal of their trust.

Often, on TV, we see very angry senators, screaming their heads off in self-righteous indignation and in disgust of impropriety done by labandying officials. But they ignore the fact that they too have encountered the law to protect their personal interest; that they have turned Philippine politics into an old boys' club where politicians protect each other's interests. The Constitution bans political dynasty, but one cannot accuse a politician for violating this constitutional prohibition because any lawmakers have yet to come up with its implementing law.

That's why political dynasties are all over. The mayor of Makati has established one. The President has done worse...her dynasty has spread from Pampanga to Negros Occidental to Bicol. Political dynasties are supposed to be unconstitutional. My question to her, Senator Aquino is: If he becomes president, what is he going to do about it? Nothing can be worse than hypocritical politicians and their self-righteous pretensions.

—CESAR M. DE LOS REYES,
cesdleyr@gmail.com

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Harshest experience in 44 years

I AM REQUESTING the transfer to those of the Government service because's system's re-computation of my retirement benefits. I submitted the pertinent documents to the GSIS-Tacloban regional office in February 2009.

The first record, seven months later was in September 2009 by mail. mail had already passed, but. I have yet to get a clear-cut assurance as to when I am going to finally receive my retirement benefits in full. I did receive a partial amount in January 2009.

I fervently hope that this time the GSIS will finally give me a precise update on my retirement benefits, as well as a computation thereof and a long overdue check payment therefor.

At 64, I am already tired of waiting. Personally, this "retirement experience" has been the most distressing and most agonizing experience in my life after my more than three decades of government service in the Department of Education.

—LETICIA SERRANO BERARAS,
retired/head teacher/6,
737 Nonbre de la Dios St.,
Baranga, Leyte 6521,
E-mail:
maestrang@yahoo.com

I'm tired of Mafia in LP

Transcript AJ

did not resist Recto in the LP lineup, calling him "pro-GMA" for doing nothing to expose the corruption in President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration as head of the National Economic and Development Authority.

He said he had told LP officials he wasn't in league be a part of the party with Recto in it.

Recto and his wife, Vilma Santos, crusade-awarded movie actress and Batangas governor, defected from the administration coalition earlier this week to join the LP. He had sought reelection as a senator in the 2007 balloting with the administration coalition but lost.

Ormoda said he told LP general campaign manager Florencio Abad earlier and his lieutenant, Rajo Laja, once about his position on Recto.

The former senator said he felt he had been double-crossed when party officials met on Tuesday in Boulder the acceptance of Recto without even informing him. "They kept me in the dark," he said.

Ormoda also said that he believed the LP wanted to get the Batangas governor to boost the party and was forced to accept Recto as a candidate.

He said he would discuss the issue with Aquino one more time, possibly tonight.

Asked if there was a possibility he would change his mind, he said he was through. Quite frankly, "It would be difficult."

Fed up with fighting

Ormoda said that there were people around Aquino that he did not trust.

"I'm fed up with the inside fighting, with the mafia in the Liberal Party," he said.

Asked to name names, Ormoda laughed. But he clarified that he still believed Aquino was the best presidential candidate based on his track record, his good values and his being an honest person.

However, he said he would no longer carry Aquino or Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II in his campaign as an independent although he would include unnamed senatorial candidates that he described as good officials in LP's senatorial slate, such as Teofisto Guingona III and Rudy Rogers.

Asked why he would not carry Aquino in the campaign although his mother, the late President Corazon Aquino, helped him when he ran for senator before, Ormoda said he had done enough for him.

"We have helped him a lot. And I will not say any negative words against Noynoy," Ormoda said.

Political maverick

He also said he would remain a member of the 40-0 Club although he would run as an independent. Ormoda, however, said he might join Sen. Francis Escudero if he pursues his plan of running for vice president.

A known maverick when he was in the Senate, Ormoda disclosed that he had received offers from the camp of Sen. Manuel Villar and former President Joseph Estrada to run under their respective parties but he refused their offers on Wednesday.

"I turned down Erap and Villar already. I want a higher standard of public service. I don't want to have extra baggage when I run and with Erap, my loyalty is to the 99 (poor) people," Ormoda said.

LP spokesperson Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III said the party had yet to strike Ormoda's name from its list of senatorial aspirants (nine so far).

Tañada also said that Aquino was still talking to Ormoda. "Well, there are still efforts from Senator Noynoy; talks are still continuing to ask him to remain. But just the same, we are also not filling his slot. We won't change him for another candidate."

Recto surprised

In a statement, Recto said he was "surprised" to hear that Ormoda "is planning to leave the LP just because I joined the movement of Noynoy and Mar (Roxas) for clean politics."

Recto said he and his wife did not apply but were "invited" by the LP to back the Aquino-Roxas tandem.

"My service in government is of public record. Is it one tainted by any charge of corruption or wrongdoing," he said, apparently responding to Ormoda's assertion he could not accept a former Puhos ally to the LP.

"I have always been known to speak my mind, be it on the floor of the House, the committee rooms of the Senate, or inside Malacañang," Recto said, adding:

"I have never allowed my party affiliation to get in the way of my principles."

Recto also said he had opposed the Arroyo administration's unpopular policies.

He said even Ormoda, as a senator, supported the passage of the value-added tax (VAT) that he had sponsored.

Nothing categorical

While the LP is bent on building on to Ormoda, the chances is "remote" that supporters/wives of militant party-list groups will seek seats in the Senate under its banner.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, who, along with Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, is running for senator in May 2010, said a dinner meeting on Wednesday with a "relaxed" Aquino did not result to anything clear.

"At the minimum, I'm talked about what is his platform are could work together on. But he was silent about whether we would be included among those [the LP] would consider [as senatorial candidates]. There was nothing categorical like that," Ocampo told reporters at the Bayo forum in Quezon City.

He also aired the perception that there were many groups surrounding Aquino, with each one having a say on who would be included in the LP senatorial slate.

Also present at the dinner meeting that took place in a restaurant on Timog Road in Makati were Rita Tañada, LP campaign manager Abad, LP secretary general Cielito Reg. Joseph Abaya and Nathaniel Santiago of the Makabayan coalition, which will carry Ocampo and Maza as its senatorial candidates.

Falling in line

Ocampo said he and Maza were told that the applicants for the remaining slots in the LP slate were numerous.

"They said those falling in line were more than twice the number of slots, and that there were special groups lobbying to be accommodated," he said.

So far, the names on the LP senatorial slate are Ormoda, former Sen. Freddie Tiñlon, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, Mamintlapo Rep. Romero Mateo, Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III, former Bukidnon Rep. Nereo Acosta, Iloilo Rep. and Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros.

Options, not feelings

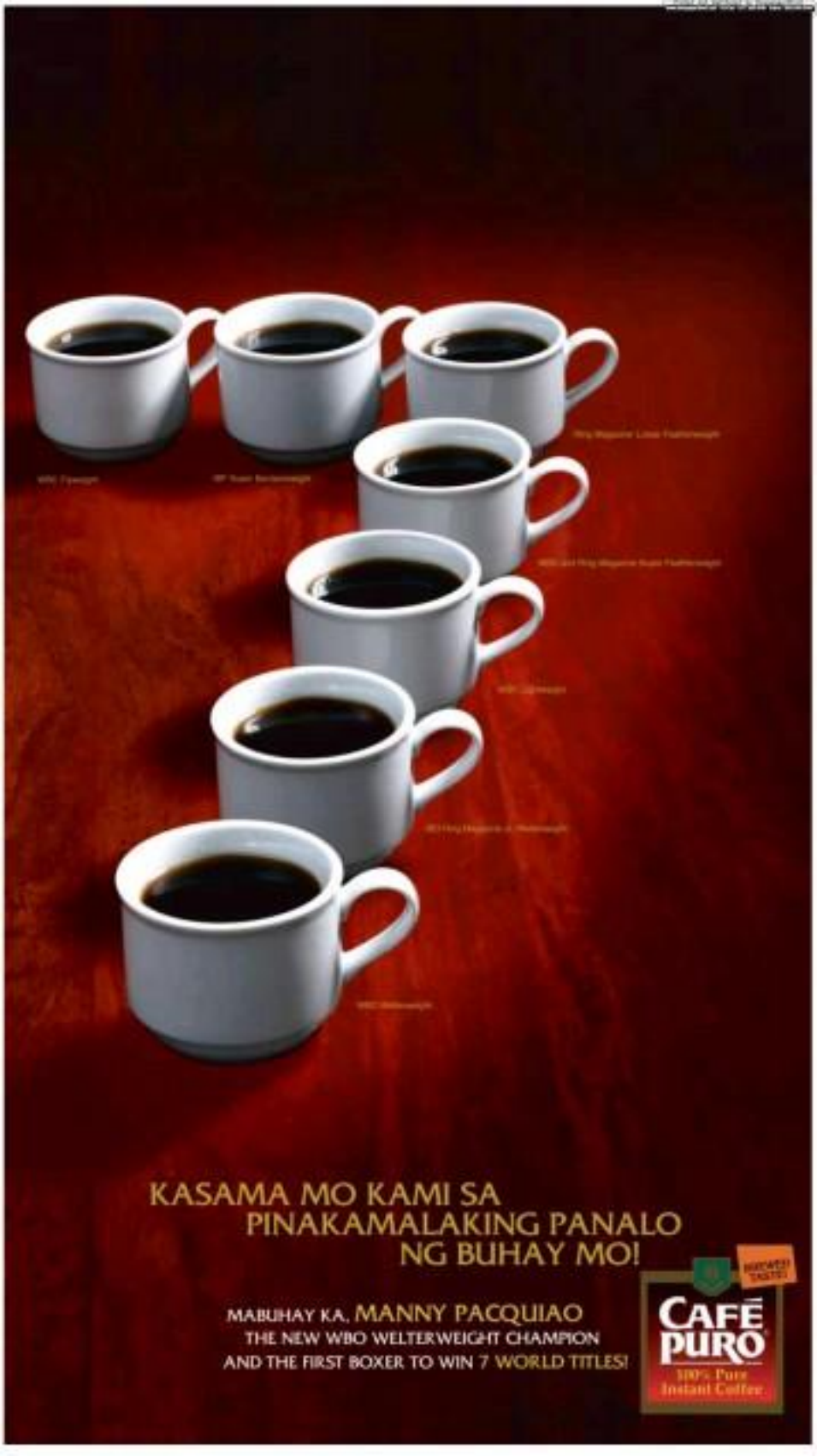
Ocampo said that during the dinner, Aquino mostly focused his remarks on his family's efforts to find a way to solve the problem in Hacienda Luisita.

He said Aquino did not express any ill feelings about the issues involving Luisita, and "discussed options, not how bad he felt."

The vast sugar estate in Tarlac is in the middle of a bitter agrarian reform dispute.

Ocampo said Aquino had promised to continue studying the issues and to look after the farmers' interest even if his family would let go of Luisita.

BEN HOYNOY Aquino and Sen. Mar Roxas raise the hands of QC Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr., Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista and the mayor's daughter, Joy Belmonte, at the Amoranto Multipurpose Center, Quezon City, where they were sworn into the Liberal Party.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Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

Church slams casino in Bacolor town

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

BACOLOR, PAMPANGA—It looks like boy hooker "Sonrico" and the "Fathers (priests and missionaries)" in the teleserye "May Bukas Pa" and residents and Church leaders of this town, where the TV series is shot, are battling the same issue: The operation of a casino.

The reel and real life took strong similarities as the Archdiocese of San Fernando and the Archdiocesan Council of the Laity (DCL) Tuesday lamented its week in front of the operation of a casino in the Bing's Royal Hotel and Leisure Park here.

A tarpaulin was also hung at the fence of a church in the village of Dau, Mabalacat, in nearby City of San Fernando, which leads straight to the casino.

Auxiliary Bishop Pablo Virgilio David said San Fernando Archbishop Paciano Aniceto is "vehemently against the gaming facility."

Invitation refused

Fr. Jess Mandilag, head of the San Guillermo Parish, said he refused the invitation to bless the blessing of the facility and the launch on Oct. 17.

Coincidence or not, that was almost the same time that the tabanjeras (shemales) "Sanchitas" discovered the illegal gambling center in Bagong Pag-asa, a fishing town that aunt Socorro, a deputy religious Hispanic town, as a major setting.

Rambrado Rivera, president of the Gen Guillermo-parish pastoral council (PPC), said the closure or owners of the series might have taken the idea from the local authorities.

But like in the TV series' new twists—"betrayal" and drought—Bacolor is not mentioned as the location of Bagong Pag-asa.

"I think the creators feared is aware of what's happening in Bacolor," (Rivera said), explaining that as early as June 18, 2008, in a public hearing that day, she expressed the objection of PPCs in San Guillermo, Calulumbayan and Cabetican to the casino project.

Unanimous stand

David said the issue was raised in a meeting of the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council.

"We were unanimous in our stand against it... We are against the proliferation of gambling activities in Pampanga," he said.

He said the proponents pushed the project in avoid opposition from the Roman Catholic Church.

The lack of proper consultation, the promotion of gambling and the luring of children to enroll and frequent the ACL is against the canons, said Banjo Bermudez, ACL president.

But a slot machine arcade and "not a full casino setup" is being run in Bing Royale's Hotel, said lawyer Carlos Bautista Jr., vice president for corporate and legal services of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), in a letter to Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio on Oct. 20.

Council OK

Panlilio, a Catholic priest, asked Pagcor to stop the opening of the casino.

Bautista said the proponents, the Blue Chip Gaming and Leisure Corp., secured a resolution when the town council "interposed no objection" to the open selection of an exclusive club in the land.

Approved unanimously on June 24, 2008, Resolution No. 71-2008 did not cite Blue Chip as a proponent.

The land's owner, Melchor Calaguig, denied running the casino.

FROM a duck pen to typhoon shelter, these structures in a village in Victoria, Laguna have been emptied of ducks as temporary evacuees who fled flooding in the town brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Duck pens shelter Laguna town evacuees

VICTORIA, LAGUNA—THREE tin-roof walls or ceilings and two roofs of a floor, five half rooms on the ground and fills the air when wind blows or monsoon rains on it.

That is a duck pen and house to four families who fled flooding in this town brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

About 400 square meters, the structure that used to keep hundreds of ducks now provides shelter to the families, who could not return home because the flood hasn't subsided weeks after Ondoy left.

During the day, the galvanized iron roof that houses only heats heat directly into the structure. At night, the place turns cold.

Signs that people started taking over the pen by an inch sides of the structure. Such as mats, tables or one side and pictures pasted on the other.

Most Ondoy struck on Sept. 26. 17 people, including three children, shared the pen with several fighting cocks, a source of income for one of the evacuees.

The families are among at least 10 who sought shelter in duck pens when Ondoy struck, according to Vitas Flores, social welfare and development officer of the town which is known for its duck and duck egg industry.

Nine of the fourth-class town's villages were submerged when Ondoy. Gen Tiburcio "Sarci," struck.

Floods brought by Ondoy worsened by the swelling of Laguna Lake, reached knee deep. When flood came, the families could not be saved because "the political gathering was not part of official functions."

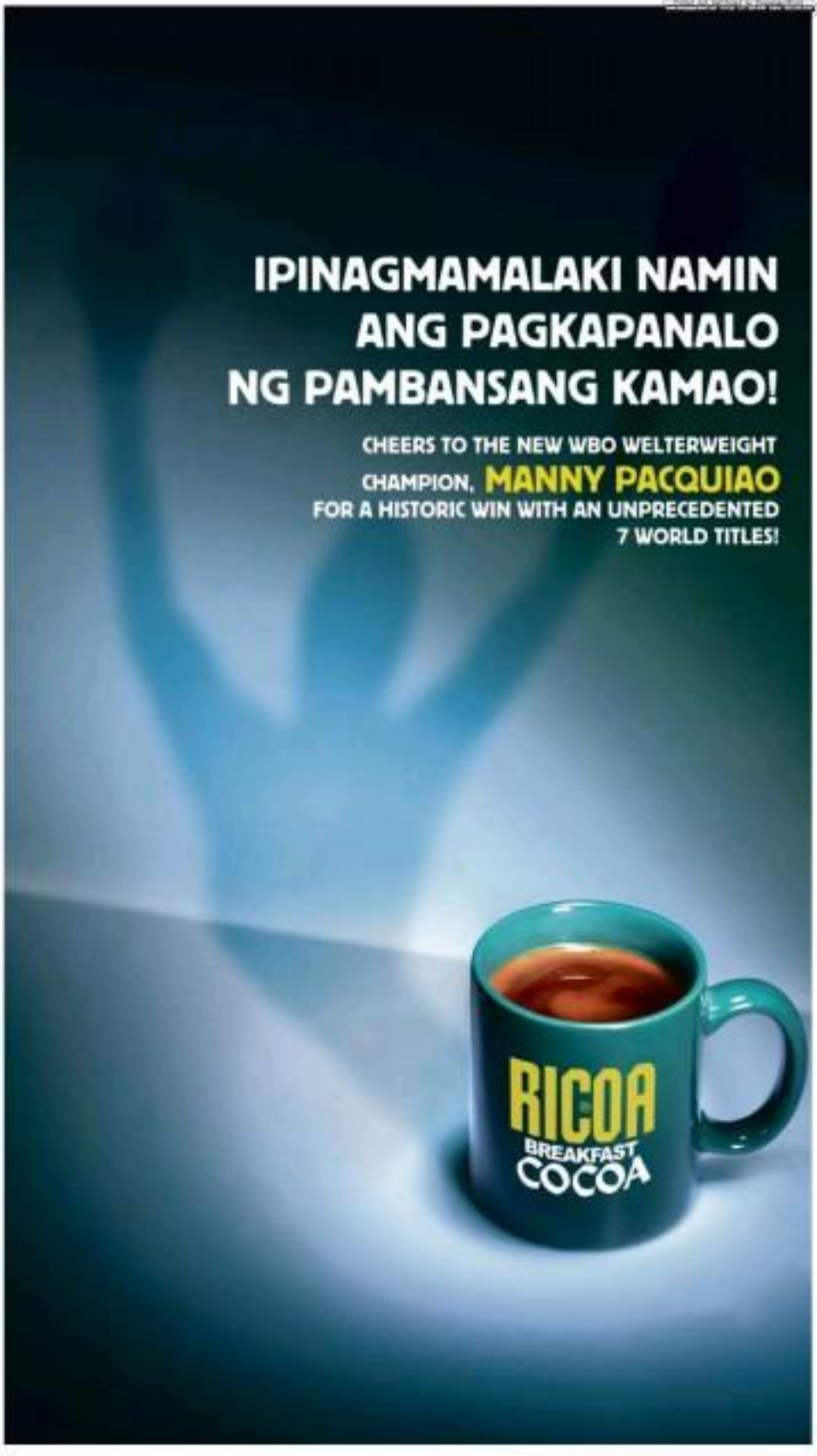
Provincial board member Irene Crampon Galbraith confirmed in an interview that most local officials would rather not attend the convention. Even if they were to spend their money.

Government officials who are on official business with authority to travel routinely charge their travel expenses to local funds.

Mascardino said public funds should not be used because "the political gathering was not part of official functions."

Provincial board member Irene Crampon Galbraith confirmed in an interview that most local officials would rather not attend the convention. Even if they were to spend their money.

Rebel Lakas-Kampi-CMD national convention held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila, were on official business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COCA Cola's Mark Macapagal goes for a steal off Burger King's Mark Yee in their game even by the Whoppers, 106-91, Wednesday. NOEL PABALATE

Powerhouse Aces, Texters clash today

By Rivaan R. Candila

STILL SMARTING FROM A FIRST loss very few expected, Alaska aims to get back on track today against Talk 'N Text in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Aces swing into action at 7:30 p.m. hoping to keep the solo lead in 7-1 over an Burger King team on an epic back-to-back games for the first time this season against the Air 21 Stuff in 5 p.m.

Alaska will enter into the game still feeling the wounds of a surprise loss last week in Rizal at Metro, which claimed the aces as its first victim.

The Aces need to be a lot better in their clash with the defending champion Tropang Texters, who will be gunning for a third straight win and creep closer toward a top two slot.

The last time Alaska and Talk 'N Text saw action was on Friday the 13th, with the Aces succumbing and the Texters barely dodging the upset ace against another lightweight—the Air Stuff.

Meanwhile, the Whoppers, after snapping a three-game losing streak with a come-from-behind victory over Coca-Cola just two nights ago, are slightly favored to deal the Energy Boosters a fourth straight loss.

Coach Yeng Guiao had described that win as only one out of the collar, adding that the Whoppers are just taking things one game at a time so not bone for they can go.

The Boosters, on the other hand, will be coming off two close setbacks, the most painful one being that game against the Texters where they blew several commanding leads.

STANDINGS

	W	L
Alaska	6	1
San Miguel	5	1
Ginebra	4	1
Talk 'N Text	4	2
Purefoods	3	3
Sta. Lucia	3	3
Rhodes Stud	2	4
Burger King	2	4
Coca-Cola	1	5
Air 21 Stuff	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
5 p.m. — Alaska Stuff vs Burger King
7:30 p.m. — Talk 'N Text vs Alaska

Age-cheating probe set in Fiba-Asia U16 caging

By Jane Mansero

AGE-CHEATING HAS BECOME A grave concern in the ongoing Fiba-Asia U16 Men's Championship in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

After the team managers' meeting held before the Philippines opened its bid against Japan last night, Nokia U16 Team Pilipinas manager Joel Lapa said officials of three Middle East nations complained that some countries were fielding players beyond the required age limit.

"Everybody was worried about possible age-cheating," said Lapa, who represented the Philippines in the two-hour meeting together with Bernie Atienza, chair of the Basketball Federation of the Philippines' competitions committee.

Basketball executives from Kuwait, Jordan and Syria have asked Fiba Asia secretary general Dato' Yeoh Choo Hock to conduct tests on suspected athletes.

Instead, chaired Chito brought its U18 team, which has a pool of players born before 1993. With the lack of a stringent screening process, Filipe-tuna was relying only on the passport of players to determine their eligibility.

"We just can't let the issue affect the morale of the boys," said RP coach Eric Altamirano, whose team was to the clash of battle with the Japanese in preseason.

"Whether other teams are cheating or not is none of our business. Everybody is in high spirits. We're here to win the games," he added.

China is focused in secure one of two slots on the 2010 Fiba U17 World Championship in Hamburg, Germany by fielding a squad with an average height of 6-6 or-6. China is bracketed with Saudi Arabia, India and Jordan in Group A.

The Filipinos have already secured the ticket to the Chinese U16 squad in a series of tuneup games in China last June and assured its top players in the first Asian Youth Games in Singapore the following month.

After Japan, the Nationals will take on Kazakhstan today and Bahrain tomorrow.

CHEL Dioquino of PEU scores off jared Lim of St. Benilde in a recent V-League encounter. ALBERT DIAZ

Lady Eagles fight for life vs Tigresses

By Cedrik F. Tupas

STANDINGS

	W	L
UST	3	1
San Sebastian	2	1
FEU	2	1
Ateneo	2	2
Adamson	1	2
Lyceum	1	2
St. Benilde	1	3

GAMES TODAY
(JCSGO Pgang H Arena, San Juan)
2 p.m. — Adamson vs St. Benilde
4 p.m. — Ateneo vs UST

ATENEO CANT EXpect any favors when the Lady Eagles battle with peacemen and unruly sensations in University of Santo Tomas today in the quarterfinal of the Shakey's V-League Season-6 second conference at the JCSGO Pgang V Arena in San Juan.

Although the Lady Eagles eased the victory scare from the Tigresses in their 4 p.m. showdown, UST also wants a win to boost its confidence in the semifinals.

Ateneo is locked in a tie with Adamson for fourth with a similar 6-5 slates.

But with the Lady Falcons headed to Ateneo and St. Benilde on the first game at 2 p.m., the Lady Eagles are hard-pressed to overcome the Tigresses to keep their bid alive.

"We know the game is very important to them [Ateneo]," said UST coach Cesael Delos Santos, whose squad rests a 10-4 record. "But it's also important for us to get a win as well here considering heading into the semifinals."

If teenage-and-Adamson win today, they will tie the Tamaraw for third at 7-5. The fifth slate will be applied with the team with the highest rebound score clinching the third spot. The other two will play in a knockout game.

The Lady Falcons pin themselves in a solid position of clinching a semifinal berth by downing the Lady Eagles, 28-25, 25-18, 25-22, 25-22, Wednesday.

The Tigresses are coming off a (25-27, 16-25, 25-18, 25-22) drubbing of FEU Tuesday night.

So, Antonio, Laylo leave for Russia tilt

TEEN SENSATION WESLEY SO AND FIL-low Grandmasters Ingelito Antonio Jr. and Darwin Laylo left yesterday en compete in the World Chess Cup starting tomorrow in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

So, the highest-ranked Filipino player with an Elo of 2640, takes on GM Gadir Guseinov of Azerbaijan in the first round of the tournament featuring 128 qualifiers from all over the globe.

The 47-year-old Antonio (Elo 2574) and Laylo (Elo 2552) will play a pair of experienced and higher-rated opponents.

Antonio will tangle with defending champion GM Gata Kamsky of the United States while Laylo will challenge GM David Navara of the Czech Republic.

"We're ready. We've been preparing long and hard for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play against the world's best," said tenacious, the most experienced player in the three-man Filipino delegation in the knockout-style tournament.

The 18-year-old So will be making his first appearance in the biennial event while Laylo clinched his second straight trip by topping this year's Asian Zone 3.3 championship.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Butch" Pichay expressed confidence that the three Filipino players will perform well in the first round and make the country proud anew.

"We expect our three players, especially Wesley, to do well in the first round, and Pichay

Arcilla leads favorites' march

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JOHNRY MICELLA STEPPED CLOSer to an unprecedented fifth men's singles title with an emphatic 6-1, 6-3 victory over rocky Raphaelian yesterday in the Philippine Colombian Association (PCA) Open tennis championships.

But fellow Davis Cuppers PJ Tierro and Francis Casey Alcantara also posted hurdle in the semifinals along with Fil-Italian Marc Reyes.

Arcilla, 29, winner of the last three singles titles here, advanced against Alcantara, who bowed out Ellent Acosta, 6-2, 6-3.

Tierro, the second seed, barged into the semis with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Ralph Erwin Sarte while Reyes disliked Rolando Raul Jr. 6-4, 6-2.

Reyes, who lost at ready caught the attention of the national coaching staff because of his impressive showing here, gets to prove his worth against Tierro today in the other semi-match.

The Pamboanga native, Arcilla, Christine and Alcantara clashed the prospects of a family title showdown in the women's singles exciting their respective fans.

The top seed and elder Encinas as 17, Anna Christine dumped Regina Santiago, 6-2, 6-1, to oust a semifinal duel against Jessica Agra, who eliminated fourth seed Michelle Fang, 6-3, 6-7 (3), 6-1.

ARCILLA

Her 15-year-old sibling Anna Clarice also pulled a big upset by overpowering defending champion Bambi Gatus, 6-3, 6-2, in the event sponsored by Cebuana Lhuillier, Bros Pedals and Pilsen.

Anna Clarice will next take on four-time champion Cassima Alcantara, who beat through the winner before escaping with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 triumph over third seed Aileen Regan.

Using her big serve and bright strategy, Anna Clarice took advantage of the lethargic game of Gatus, who complained of playing too much tennis this week.

Yoo dumps Zalameda, gains semis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

KOREAN YOO MI EWORE HIS inventive How Zalameda's campaign with a 6-3, 6-4 triumph even as Hari Jung-hee also prevailed to raise the possibility of another all-Korea finish in the PLDT-Smart ITF women's tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Yoo, seeded fourth, refused to battle under Zalameda's power game, patiently engaged the former Southeast Asian Games gold winner to long rallies from the baseline to rule and serve a semifinal game against Chinese fifth-seed Liu Xiaodates.

Liu, who made the quarterfinals last week but bruised in eventual week 1 champion Lee Ye-Ra in the semis, 7-5, 6-4, stunned Florida top seed Nicole Gregory-Davidson, 7-5, 6-4.

The seventh-seeded Yoo earned the second seed Lee who quit after suffering a pulled muscle in her right calf while trailing 3-4 in the first set.

Hari will take on Thai fifth seed Nicha Lertpitaksinchai, who eliminated Japanese third seed Mari Inoue, 7-6 (2), 6-2, in the event supported by PLDT-Smart, Holcim, Pilipinas and ITF Grandslam Development Fund.

"The played tough, I wasn't hitting my first shot," said the 23-year-old Zalameda who bagged the mixed doubles crown in the 2008 SEAG with Jeck Tinsu.

Pacquiao PBA guest of honor

MORING STAR MANNY PACQUIAO AND Filipino athletes competing in the Southeast Asian Games in Laos will be the guests of honor tonight at a reception hosted by the Pinaren ng Bayaning Athlete (PBA) people in the Vientiane Capital.

Pacquiao, who is arriving in Manila today, claimed the WBO welterweight belt by scoring a 12 round technical knockout against erstwhile champion Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico last Sunday in Las Vegas. With the victory, Pacquiao became the only boxer to win seven world titles in different weight classes.

"We are deeply honored Manny has accepted our invitation. His presence will boost the morale of our athletes competing in Laos," said PBA party-list founder Dave Orao.

World Cup: Paeng, Liza crash out

MELAKA, MALAYSIA—THE PHILIPpines' Paeng Nepomuceno and Liza del Rosario crashed out of the Girls Qualification Match Play Thursday, but not after giving a good fight.

The 12-year-old, lefty Nepomuceno fell three pins short of carding a gutsy 79 average of 206-57 and failing to be tied to long a fifth career in the world's toughest, most prestigious individual bowling competition.

The 30-year-old Del Rosario, a four-time international finalist, did much better, but she, too, failed to make it in the top of the women's division. Del Rosario matched the semifinals but went only two of eight head-to-head matches and wound up sixth with 8375, including bonus pins.

"Paeng had difficulty scraping strikes. But he still managed to finish his third qualifying block with games of 207, 167, 208, 190, 191, 215, 192 and 227.

Nora Zealand's Jenny Negarene matched Nepomuceno's 29th game to hold on to 26th place.

Del Rosario sparkled after she rolled four, 11th strikes in the first eight game block, advancing to the semis in seventh spot. But her game soured in the head-to-head semifinal rotation.

Canada's Caroline Lapierge downed the way among the semis.

Black, Agustin share spotlight

ATENEO COACH NORMAN BLACK and San Sebastian's rookie newcomer Mc Agustin will share the spotlight with five of the most decorated varsity players in the 2008 Collegiate Basketball Press Awards Party presented by Smart Sports and the UAAP-NCAA Press Corps at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Kamayan Extra in Greenhills.

Black steered the Blue Eagles to back-to-back UAAP championships, while Agustin guided the rookie-laden Stags to defeating three-time NCAA titlist San Beda.

Ateneo's Rabeh al-Hussani, San Sebastian's Jerlee Aquino, University of Santo Tomas' Dylan Ababon, Jose Rizal University's Jake Wilson and San Beda's Anthon Jarin round out this year's recognition for their individual accomplishments at the awards rite hosted by the Philippine Sports Commission chaired by Harry Angping, Accel Mon-Rey's and San Miguel Corp.

Hawks extend win run to six

ATLANTA—THE ATLANTA HAWKS REclaimed a share of the lead in the NBA standings with a 105-98 win over the Miami Heat on Wednesday.

Joe Johnson made it two straight 30-point games, and Josh Smith dominated during a decisive late-half run as Atlanta won its sixth in a row and improved to 10-2.

Johnson scored 30 points on the heels of a 28-point effort against Portland on Monday. Smith was all over the flat stats: 16 points, 14 rebounds, seven assists, two blocks and two steals.

The Hawks connected perfect at home and had their first sellout crowd of the season.

Michael Beasley led the Heat with 22 points.

Magic 108, Thunder 94

In Orlando, Florida, Rashard Lewis fell one assist shy of his first triple-double, finishing with 17 points and 10 rebounds in Orlando's victory over Oklahoma City.

Lewis, who was suspended for the first 10 games of the season for violating the league's drug policy, didn't play in the fourth quarter, which the Magic started with a 68-58 lead.

Orlando overcame the absence of point guard Jameer Nelson, who underwent knee surgery Wednesday and is expected to miss four to six weeks.

Wizards 108, Cavaliers 91

In Washington, Antawn Jamison delivered 31 points and 14 rebounds in his season debut as Washington beat Cleveland to end a six-game losing streak.

Wearing a protective sleeve over the right shoulder that sidelined him since October, Jamison looked good from the start, scoring 13 points in the first quarter.

Cleveland's LeBron James finished with 34 points and nine assists, but he scored only six points in the fourth quarter while shooting 1 for 7. The Cavaliers, without the injured Shaquille O'Neal and Anderson Varejao, had their five-game winning streak snapped.

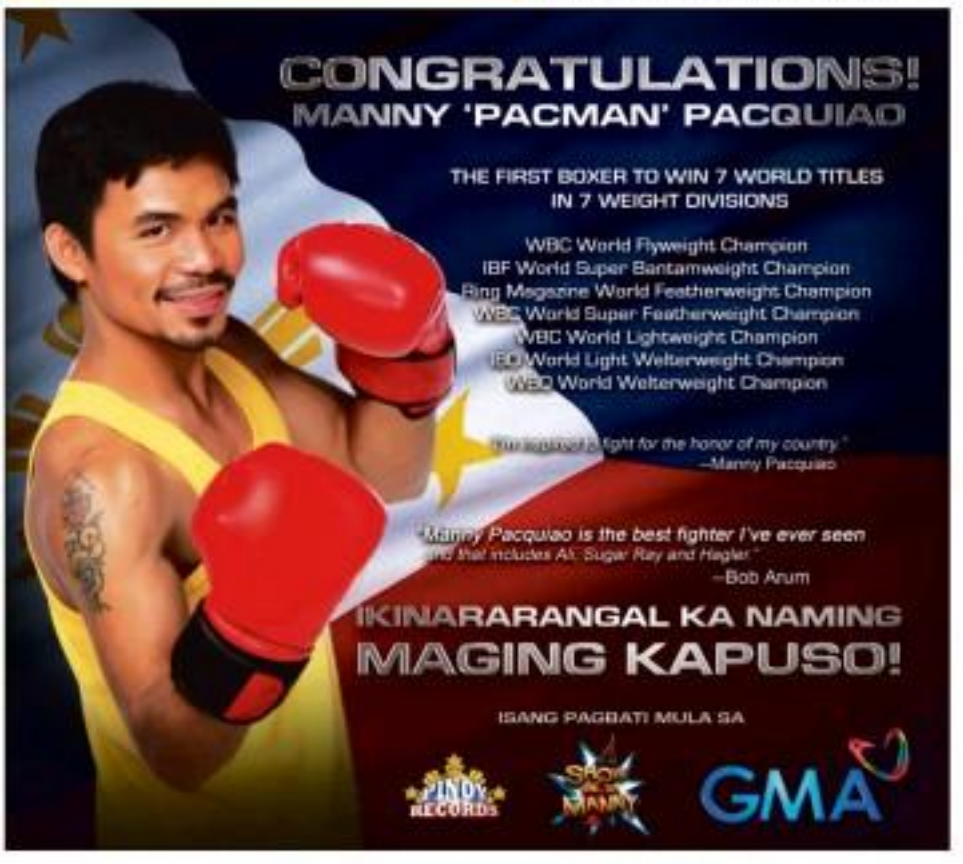
76ers 86, Bobcats 84

In Philadelphia, Lou Williams' layup with 5.1 seconds remaining lifted Philadelphia over Charlotte.

Andre Iguodala scored 25 points, Williams had 19 and Elton Brand contributed seven-straight of 10 points, 11 rebounds and six blocked shots for the 76ers.

Stephen Jackson scored 25 points for the Bobcats, who suffered their sixth straight defeat and first road.

AP



THE BOXCATS' Gerald Wallace and Sixers' Elton Brand and Rodney Carney, from left, tussle for the elusive ball. AP

Salvador strikes again in RP Golf Tour

By Mueang B. Castillo

SALVADOR

ANTIPOLO—ELMER SALVADOR played just well enough to secure his second title of the year in the ICTSI Philippine Golf Tour, shooting a final round one-under 71 yesterday to ride the Valley leg by two shots over Gene Bordon.

The stocky Dumaguete marathoner-turned-golfer was within a 66 on setting up alone in second at 213, which bettered his previous-career best finish of third place at the Forest Hills leg last month.

Salvador, who vaulted into a three-way tie at Sherwood Hills in July, trailed second round co-leader, the amateur Israel Abalos, after a missed green bogey on the first before getting back the lead with an eagle on the seventh hole.

"I just kept my focus even after that bogey [on No. 1]," Salvador, who practiced on the greens with Abalos at noon on Wednesday, said in Filipino. Salvador picked up a birdie on the 13th which made up for a troubling finish bogey.

The young Bordon bounced back from a second round 73 on Wednesday, executing Abalos for second place after the ICTSI Calatagan/Carmelray leg featured home-stick 74.

Tied for the lead at the start of the day after a 68 and a 69 and just one down going into the final four holes of the final flight, the top Abalos lost three shots on a two-hole span from the 15th.

A double bogey 8 on the 16th doomed Abalos's bid to duplicate what fellow ISP team member Mark Bernardo and former Cantabong teammate Rufino Bayron pulled off inside the last 12 months.

Cantabong hosts the final leg from Dec. 9-11.

Richard Sinfuego, who fired a 66 on Wednesday, settled for a 73 and finished tied for fourth with Danny Dante, who returned a 69 for 215.

Finishing another shot back were the pairs of Ely Borres, Ruben Daniel and Raoul Blanco, who shot a 70. Borres, the former BF Air and DHL Air champ, and Daniel, earned in identical 71s.

Fernando, one of six amateurs cutting from the Calatagan/Cantabong action who made the cut, bowed a top 10 finish after a second straight 71. He was tied for sixth spot with Ferdy Garduke at 214. Garduke earned in a day-best 66.

MURAKAMI: Battling to keep his Asian Golf Tour card

Murakami a shot off pace with 68

Pucay, Bayron get going with 70s

SUNGAI BESAR (MALAYSIA)—KIYOSHIRO MURAKAMI, THE FILIPINO winner of the 2007 Iskandar Johor Open in Malaysia, shot a 4-under-par 68 to join a six-way tie for second place after the first round of the Johnnie Walker Championship Open in Selangor.

Bidding to save his Asian Tour card with a top five finish in the $300,000 event, Murakami came up with a flawless 31-34 round highlighted by four birdies and sealed Jamie Donaldson of Australia by a shot.

Keeping Murakami company were Chinese Taipei's Lin Pen-hung, Malaysia's Khor Hong Hwai and the Thai trio of Pariya Auttanavuthikul, Anirut Tinpha-mahyanont and Arthaphon Prachanuraseth.

Marc Pucay, who is enjoying a strong year in the Asian circuit, although small it is four stroke after a run of four straight birdies from the 10th hole at the Pinehurst Golf Country Club.

But a double bogey-five on the par-4 14th pulled him back and Pucay finished with a 70 (36-34) along with compatriots Jay Shyrose (37-33).

Rey Paguntalan also broke par with a 71 (35-36) but his former nephew Arnie withdrew early in his round. Antonio Lascuña carded a 73 (37-36), Marvin Dumandan had a 74 (37-37), and Michael Bibat (42-32) and Jerome Delatarre (38-39) had 77s.

"I have been struggling with my putting the whole year but I was putting well again and that really saved me. Hopefully I can keep it going for the next three days," said Murakami.

The bubbly Filipino is currently in 77th position on the rankings and needs to break into the top-60 with two more events remaining on the Asian Tour schedule.

"I have to continue to shoot low numbers in my next three rounds to have a chance of keeping my card. I do not want to put too much pressure on myself on. I will just play one round by my pace," said Murakami. Asian Tour News

Cherry car Chairman's Cup top prize

A BRAND-NEW CHERRY CAR AND A TEXAS length golf cart are sure to spice up the 2009 Chairman's Cup when it tees off on Saturday at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Trece Martires, Cavite.

Cherry and The Turf Company are leading their list of the Chairman's Cup wherein previous cars donated to victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng."

"This is a big boost to the Chairman's Cup, in fact, a lot of companies are supporting us and their response is overwhelming," said Sherwood Hills chair Robert Ishii-Sotto.

A total of 150 participants, composed of 75 two-man teams, have filled up the slots for the event presented by Philippine Peso Golf Association, Golfstar Inc., Pichrel Management, Club Leisure, GH Ins. Co., CBI Golf Club, Manila Southwoods, Isuzu Philippines (I-Man mid) are major sponsors.

SPORTSWATCH

Maritime golf at Alabang up

THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING Association (Pisa) will hold the 4th Philippine Maritime Golf Tournament today at the Alabang Country Club in Muntinlupa City.

This year's tournament will benefit the ABS-CBN Foundation's Rapid Response Bayanihan Pinoy project. Up for grabs is a Texas Knight golf cart as the hole-in-one prize courtesy of The Turf Company. Petron Corporation and Magsaysay Transport & Logistics are the co-presenters.

'Bakbakan' semis today

THE 23-MEMBER PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO Pasay City Cockpit today on the "20-40 WCB National Bakbakan: 10-Stag Derby" semifinals unfold at 4 p.m.

Participants who score 40 points after the series count get a share of the P2 million prize.

They also get a solid shot at the P10 million champion's prize, said National Federation of Game cock Breeders president Rocky Palmares Jr.

Meanwhile, the five-edition of the crowd-drawing "Pasay Cagayan Big Event 8-Stag Derby" is to be hosted by defending champion

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ROAD RAGE VICTIM?

Palace exec's son killed

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE SON OF A MALACAÑANG official was shot dead inside his sport utility vehicle by a foreign-looking man on Sorrento Road, near the corner of Origas Avenue, in Barangay Valencia, Quezon City, on Wednesday night.

Supt. Ferdinand Angeli, Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Station 7 commander, identified the victim as Noanie Victor Eluarte Jr., 27, whose father is Presidential Chief of Staff Undersecretary Senen Eluarte Sr.

The younger Eluarte worked at the Swissôtel Manila as a recruitment manager.

Angeli said Eluarte Jr. suffered gunshot wounds in the chest and arms and died on the spot.

His attacker was described by a witness as Caucasian, between 25 and 30 years old, about 5'10" in height, bald and with a tattoo on his right arm. He drove a blue wagon-type SUV with the diplomatic license plate 249001.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Ebinezer, QCPD homicide section head, said that based on the records of the Philippine National Police's Highway Patrol Group, the vehicle was owned by a Dolan, Stephen Pollard, who lives at 6 ADB Ave. in Mandaluyong City.

A check with the protocol office at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) showed that Pollard is a principal economist at the Asian Development Bank and has immunity from suits, Ebinezer said.

He added, however, that based on the description of witnesses, the man who shot Eluarte Jr. was in his late 20s to early 30s while Pollard, according to DFA records, is in his late 50s.

"We have to request ADB to turn Pollard [over] so as we could ask him about his possible involvement of the killing of Eluarte," Ebinezer said.

Ebinezer said the victim, who was driving a blue Toyota Land Cruiser Lybra number 12"UPGE fond just came from his girlfriend's house in Camp Aguinaldo when witnesses saw him figure in a road collision with another SUV being driven by a foreigner.

A policeman, SPO2 Edgar Tindoy, told the police he saw the foreigner block the victim's path with his vehicle. The foreigner then alighted from his SUV and shot Eluarte Jr. as [illegible] several times before escaping.

CHR to probe cops who fired warning shots

By Alexis Romero

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (CHR) yesterday criticized the police for firing warning shots during Wednesday's demolition of shanties on a government-owned property in Pasay City.

In a statement, Human Rights Chair Leila de Lima said that based on news reports, policemen who took part in the operation fired

LIFE AFTER 'ONDOY'
Woman living in a resettlement area in Barangay Tanzara plies vegetables on the banks of the Marikina River for their families' consumption. A mound of unsalvaged garbage at their back and the washed-up bricks in front of them serve as reminders of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" which wrought destruction on Marikina City and ate left scars to boot.

7 nabbed, ₱1.5M worth of sex drugs, toys seized

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A RAID ON TWO SEXED STORES AT A MALL in Binondo, Manila, led to the arrest of seven persons, including two Chinese nationals, and the seizure of P1.5 million worth of sex toys and drugs said to boost a person's sex drive.

The raid on Mini Kissat Drug Store and Fayman Drug Store in Mode Mall was carried out last week by policemen from the Manila Police District Intelligence Division (MPD-DID) and Bureau of Foods and Drugs (BFAD) agents.

MPD-DID chief Senior Supt. Edmundo Reyes Jr. identified those arrested as Chinese nationals Lu Zi Jing, 42, owner of the Fayman Drug Store and Ali Dan, 27, manager of the two drug stores; sales clerks Monah Reyes, Cinderella Guerrero, Myleen Torres, Lea Villegas and Marilyn Cornejo.

Reyes said that before the raid was conducted on Nov. 13, they placed the drug stores under surveillance and conducted test buys.

Seized from the stores were boxes of alleged sex-enhancing Chinese-manufactured drugs such as Bigsize Man capsules, Fly Lunchoughter sachets, Jobe Viagra tablets, Jin You Qi Bu capsules, Li Shen Di Tian capsules, Hongzhong capsules and Xiu Qizelin.

There were also sex toys and vibrators.

Reyes said the drugs, which were not registered with BFAD, were being sold at prices ranging from P600 to P1,800, depending on the brand name.

New 'stimulant' may soon join list of banned drugs

By Nancy C. Carvajal

BENZOFURYLMETHYLENE (BZF) MAY SOON BE added to the list of dangerous drugs after tests showed that its users were exposed to the same effects as banned substances like the shabu drug Ecstasy.

Vicente "Vic" Sotto III revealed that the DDB made the recommendation during a press conference yesterday following the announcement that he resigned from his post as chair of the agency to run for senator in the 2010 national elections.

"I have recommended the inclusion of BZF as prohibited drugs to the DDB after evidence showed that its effects (on users) were comparable to Ecstasy," he said.

Sotto also disclosed that a BZF shipment was seized recently by the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF) at a warehouse in Quezon City.

Senior Supt. Francisco Uyami, AIDSOTF chief, said the seized BZF tablets were imported from the United States.

Uyami explained that BZF was sold as a "stimulant" in bars and entertainment establishments as an alternative to Ecstasy because it was cheaper but still contained the same elements of the other drugs.

The new stimulant, Uyami said, is popularly known in the market as "A2, Benny Benz, Benny Frenzy and Nemesis."

TV anchor includes 4 others in amended complaint vs trader

By Julie M. Aurelio

AN AMENDED COMPLAINT TO INCLUDE four other complainants will be filed by ABS-CBN news anchor Cheryl Cosim against businessman Richard Ordoñez who allegedly pointed a gun at her during a traffic altercation in Quezon City two weeks ago.

"We will include the other companions of Ms Cosim as complainants because they were threatened as a group, not just Ms Cosim herself," said Cosim's lawyer, Gorgonio Jaraver.

Assistant City Prosecutor Rodrigo Abi Rosario gave Cosim's party until Nov. 27 to file the amended complaint including Cosim's companions Josefita, Manuel, and John Alvarez, and Christian Bagayong.

Ordoñez was not present at the preliminary investigation yesterday but was represented by his lawyer, Trixi Arce Nilwa.

Del Rosario said Ordoñez will be required to file his counteraffidavit to the complaint for grave threats and illegal possession of firearms on Dec. 11.

The Philippine National Police's Civilian Security Group has already issued a resolution order for the firearm(s) seized. Rosario, whose license had already expired.

Cosim said she was on her way to her house on Alvarez last year with the four other complainants on Nov. 2 when Ordoñez, who was driving his car, pointed his gun at her during a traffic altercation at the corner of Visayas and Congressional Avenues.

CHR to probe . . .

From page 4-A1

their guns into the air to scare off defiant residents who were armed with a "sumpak" or an improvised gun, molotov bombs, bolo or steel rebars.

"The use of firearms is strictly prohibited during demolition operations. The Philippine National Police (PNP) has no justification for the discharge of firearms, whether for the purpose of firing warning shots, doubling as killing personnel," De Lima said.

She added that the PNP manual on operational procedures was clear on the conduct of policemen in demolitions.

"Given that only nonlethal modes of violence intervention are allowed, such as tear gas and water cannons, and only on a last resort, clearly the PNP let its own rules, nature notwithstanding, in demolitions," De Lima said.

She called on the police to properly document and identify those who may have used firearms, both from their own ranks and from the demolished community, adding that the CHR would conduct a probe of the incident.

Pasay police chief, Senior Supt. Raul Theodoro Hernandez, admitted that some of his personnel have violated standard operating procedure when they fired at the residents.

"During a commotion, warning shots were fired. We are still investigating the policemen who were involved in this," he said.

With Allison M. Lopez

DID YOU KNOW

BONIFACIO being captured by the Americans on March 23, 1901 (Emilio Aguinaldo became a guest of Malacañang Palace. He soon prepared for visits to the United States and abandoned the Republic of the Philippines on April 1, 1901. Aguinaldo left the Palace on April 16, 1901.

Cyril C. Rosaleem, Inquirer Research

Suicide bomber kills 16 at Pakistan court

PESHAWAR—A SUICIDE BOMBER STRUCK outside a Pakistan court, killing 16 people on Thursday in the latest attack on the northwestern city in 11 days as troops press a major anti-Taliban offensive.

The bomb exploded as the main gate of the building near the five-star Pearl Continental Hotel, where at least nine people were killed when attackers shot their way through a security check post and blew up a truck bomb in June.

Thursday's attack showed that militants can attack at will in the city of 2.3 million people, which lies on the edge of Pakistan's lawless tribal belt, where United States officials say al Qaeda militants are plotting attacks on the West.

Attacks in the northwest have soared as 30,000 Pakistani troops pour into Taliban strongholds in the border terrain near the border with Afghanistan, where 100,000 Nato and US troops are fighting a deadly insurgency.

Paramedics hosted the wounded from outside the court building, where a 600-kilogram vehicle towed away the mangled wreckage of a car and blackened debris scorched the main road outside the court building, television footage showed.

"It was a terrible blast. The attacker was on foot and was trying to enter the judicial complex. When the security personnel stopped him, he blew himself up," Sahibzada Anis, head of the city's administration, told reporters.

"A total of 16 people died and 36 have been wounded, six of them in a critical condition," said Anis in Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital.

Police said the bomber blew himself up at the main gate of the judicial complex just as a van carrying prisoners was passing. Three police officers were killed.

"We are alert and are ready to sacrifice our lives to save the common people," Nisar Mehmood, senior police official told reporters.

Pakistan's security forces are on the front line of a deadly al-Qaida-linked campaign that has killed more than 2,350 people in 29 months as the nuclear-armed Muslim country's rural belt comes under increasing pressure to expel hard-core militants.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Thursday's attack but Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has vowed to attack cities to avenge a military assault on its South Waziristan stronghold, now into its fifth week.

US President Barack Obama has expressed increased pressure on Pakistan to fight, not just those the government recognizes as an internal threat, but Taliban and al-Qaida militants fighting Nato troops in Afghanistan.

US missiles fired from an unmanned drone overnight killed at least four militants in North Waziristan, part of Pakistan's lawless tribal belt on the Afghan border, Pakistani officials said. AFP

Fresh sanctions eyed vs Iran

SEOUL—PRESIDENT Barack Obama said on Thursday the United States has begun talking with allies about fresh punishment against Iran for dashing efforts to halt its nuclear weapons pursuits.

Obama's tough talk came as Iran indicated it would not stop its low-enriched uranium in Russia for processing, the centerpiece of deal aimed as a peaceful resolution to Iran's contested nuclear program.

"They have been unable to get to 'yes,' and so as a consequence, we have begun discussions with our international partners about the importance of having consequences," Obama said in a brief news conference with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

Obama said a new package of punitive steps will likely be developed "over the next several weeks." He did not get more specific about the nature of any new sanctions, which would require consensus of international support that are hardly clear yet.

Standing side by side, Obama and Lee signaled large differences over another nuclear threat, North Korea. AP

'New Moon' Tickets Already SOLD-OUT

Several weeks ahead of the actual release

by Abe Ilerima, Inq7.net

One Hollywood golden rule says that sequels rarely fare as well as the original films, not to mention surpass them in ticket sales. Early indications for "New Moon," the follow-up to the immensely successful "Twilight" of last year, show that it will literally set the box-office on fire again release, as the first batch of tickets made available online have already sold out according to a Los Angeles Times report which leads to the logical conclusion that all hell will break loose in theaters once the films goes worldwide on Friday Nov. 20.

Add to this the fact that hype is already beginning to build up for the third film ECLIPSE even before the release of the second film in the series, so it's safe to assume that Summit Entertainment has on its hands one of the biggest hits of our times for NEW MOON.

The stars of New Moon: Kristen Stewart (Bella Swan) and Robert Pattinson (Edward Cullen)

Online ticket sellers MovieTickets and Fandango report that NEW MOON, the follow-up to last year's hit from Summit Entertainment, which sold 6191.8 million worth of tickets in the US and Canada, is selling out screenings earlier than any other movie to date including 'Spider-man', 'Iron Man', 'Transformers', 'Harry Potter' and 'Star Wars'.

Come to think of it, this kind of response from fans is nothing to marvel about, since the "Twilight" phenomenon has proven time and time again the kind of appeal it has for audiences. Spending at which, while the first film in the series had targeted female teens in particular, things has changed with NEW MOON. It's easier guy friendly with lots of special effects, action and adventure.

Local theater owners Ayala Mall Cinemas and SM Cinemas have reported sold out screenings for the first weekend and both cinema are adding more theaters to accommodate the fans. "We don't want to turn away customers, specially the die hard fans", says James Davidson of Ayala Mall Cinemas. "We've never had this experience with other films before." he adds.

The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gozo

Karzai is sworn in, vows to tackle graft

KABUL—NEWLY INAUGURATED AFGHAN PRESIDENT Hamid Karzai pledged on Thursday to tackle corruption and said his country's security forces should be ready to take over responsibility of unstable areas in three years.

Karzai also called for a "loya jirga," a traditional grand assembly, which under Afghanistan's constitution can take procedures over all government institutions including the presidency itself.

Karzai's inauguration came against the backdrop of a rising Taliban insurgency double-crossing by pressure it." "Ministers must be competent, professional and in service to the nation," Karzai said as hundreds of Afghan and foreign dignitaries watched.

Karzai's swearing-in came as he faced renewed criticism from Washington over corruption.

Hillary Clinton, in her first visit to Afghanistan as United States secretary of state, said Washington would support the new government but expressed serious doubts in combining corruption and building an "accountable, transparent government." "Well, we are asking that they follow through on much of what they have previously said, including putting together a credible and corruption-government entity" Clinton told reporters en route to Kabul.

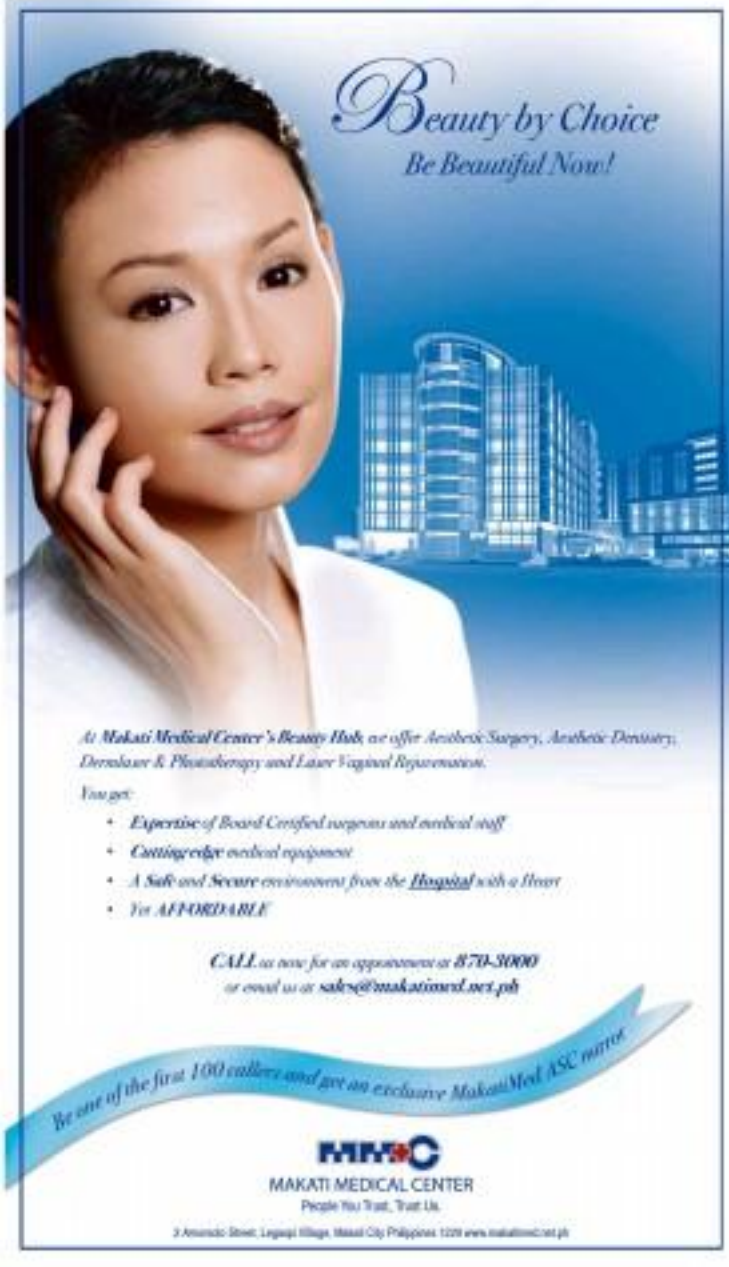
"They've done some work on that, but in our view, not nearly enough to demonstrate a serious measure of purpose on tackle corruption," she said.

Kabul announced the creation this week of a major crimes task force and anti-graft unit.

A decision by US President Barack Obama on whether to send tens of thousands of extra troops to combat the Taliban partly depends on whether he can trust Karzai to govern ahead seriously with reforms.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, the most prominent foreign leader at the ceremony, watched Karzai's inauguration with foreign ministers from Britain, France and Turkey. Reuters

KARZAI



WORLDBRIEFS

Army Corps blamed for Katrina flooding

NEW ORLEANS—The United States federal government could be vulnerable to billions of dollars in claims after a judge ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers' failure to properly maintain a navigation channel led to massive flooding in Hurricane Katrina. US District Judge Stanwood Duval on Wednesday awarded seven plaintiffs $720,000, but the government could eventually be forced to pay much more. The ruling should give more than 100,000 other individuals, businesses and government entities a better shot at claiming damages. Duval sided with six residents and one business who argued the Army Corps' shoddy oversight of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet led to the flooding of New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward and neighboring St. Bernard Parish. AP

Iran releases prominent opposition figure

TEHRAN—One of Iran's prominent pro-reform figures was released on bail on Wednesday after spending nearly four months in jail on charges of inciting the country's post-election unrest, the official IRNA news agency reported. It said Saeed Shariati, one of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi's campaign aides during the disputed June election, has been released on the order of Tehran's Revolutionary Court. The agency gave no further details, but reported separately that a group of 12 people who had been detained in two protest gatherings since last month have also been released after questioning. Shariati was among more than 100 opposition politicians and activists who have been on trial since August on charges of forswearing the street unrest that broke out after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed re-election in June. AP

Father of Jacko accuser commits suicide

NEW YORK—The father of a boy who alleged he was sexually molested by pop star Michael Jackson killed himself in the bedroom his luxury New Jersey apartment, police said on Wednesday. Evan Chandler, 50, was found dead in his Jersey City apartment still holding his personal weapon, a .38-caliber pistol, police spokesperson Stan Kawa told AFP. "He was found by the concierge after they went to check on him because he (Evan Chandler) hasn't been up for a doctor's appointment," Kawa said. The death was considered a suicide, but no note was left, Kawa said. Chandler's son, who was 13 at the time, accused the so-called "king of pop" in 1993 of sexually molesting him at the Neverland Ranch in California. Jackson settled out of court, paying out a multi-million dollar settlement. AFP

Army shell accidentally kills 6 Pakistani civilians

PARACHINAR—An Army shell intended for a militant hideout accidentally killed six civilians in northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, police said. Dozens of people dragged the bodies onto the main highway, forcing the rough North West Frontier Province, blocking traffic to protest the killings. The dead included three women, two children and a cop, said a local police official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media. The accident occurred in Dhanabai, a town in the Hangu district of the province, he said. AP

Indonesia expels journalists covering Greenpeace

JAKARTA—Indonesia has deported two foreign journalists covering a Greenpeace demonstration against forest destruction on the western island of Sumatra—bringing to 13 the number of people kicked out of the country over the protest. Kunikazu Sasagata, an editor for the Hindustan Times, and Raimondo Bultrini, an Italian reporter from the L'Espresso weekly newspaper, were questioned for hours after visiting a Greenpeace camp near land owned by PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper, one of Indonesia's largest paper companies. The two journalists had reportedly come from the central government, but had not sought permission from local officials to travel in the area, said Jovantar Lubis, the head of immigration in Riau Province. AP

BUSINESS

Lira Raul O. Marcelo • Associate Editor Carrie S. Mariano

Double-digit rise in remittances seen

By Michelle V. Remo and Reena F. M. Domingo

GROWTH IN REMITTANCES WILL LIKELY ENTER THE double-digit territory in December as Filipinos abroad, perked up by improving global economic conditions, are expected to send in more cash for the holidays.

Goldman Sachs projected an 11 percent annual growth in remittances to $1.55 billion for December.

Rising prices of oil in the world market, which fuels growth of countries in the Middle East—host to many Filipino workers—may boost the amount of money sent to the Philippines, Goldman Sachs said in a paper on its assessment of the Philippine economy.

The investment bank also said the improving global economic climate, which prompted some firms to rehire laid-off workers, would also support growth in remittances.

In addition, Filipinos abroad normally send more money to their loved ones in December, when households increase spending for the holidays.

In the past months, growth in remittances had slowed to a single-digit level after the United States and other industrialized countries fell into recession.

From January to September, remittances amounted to $12.9 billion, up 4.2 percent from $12.37 billion in the same period a year ago.

The latest year-on-year growth is in advances as the rate rose more in September, when money sent to reached $1.551billion, up 6.6 percent.

DOUBLE-DIGIT RI-

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Megaworld** raises P5B from retail bond sale /B3

■ **Antipolo-Tondo** LRT extension eyed /B6

Indicators

CURRENCIES

SOURCE: PHILIPPINE DEALING SYSTEM

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

$1 = ₱47.68

As of 4 p.m., Nov. 19, 2009

¥100 = ₱51.11

As of 4 p.m., Nov. 19, 2009

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(Full stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close up

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 1.81 percent higher on selective buying of blue chips, dealers said.

The composite index added 50.88 points to 2,860.30. The all-shares index rose 0.87 percent, or 12.91 points, to 1,818.18.

A total of 2.26 million shares worth ₱3.08 billion ($65.33 million) changed hands.

Decliners led advancers 89 to 86, while 83 issues closed unchanged.

"Investors are now shifting back to blue chips as growth stocks are already overbought," Homestead Dalton of Equity World Securities told Dow Jones Newswires.

He said the market may continue to gain Friday, particularly if overseas equities markets advance.

Among the day's gainers were Manila Electric Co., which added 3.76 percent to ₱224, and Philippine Long Distance Telephone, which inched up 0.28 percent to ₱2,500. AFP

Traders upbeat over economic prospects in Q3

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S BUSINESS SECTOR is more optimistic this quarter and expects profits to further improve in the first quarter of 2010.

According to the quarterly Business Expectation Survey (BES) of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the confidence index of companies for the current quarter has improved to +22 percent due to the perception that the worst of the global economic turmoil is over.

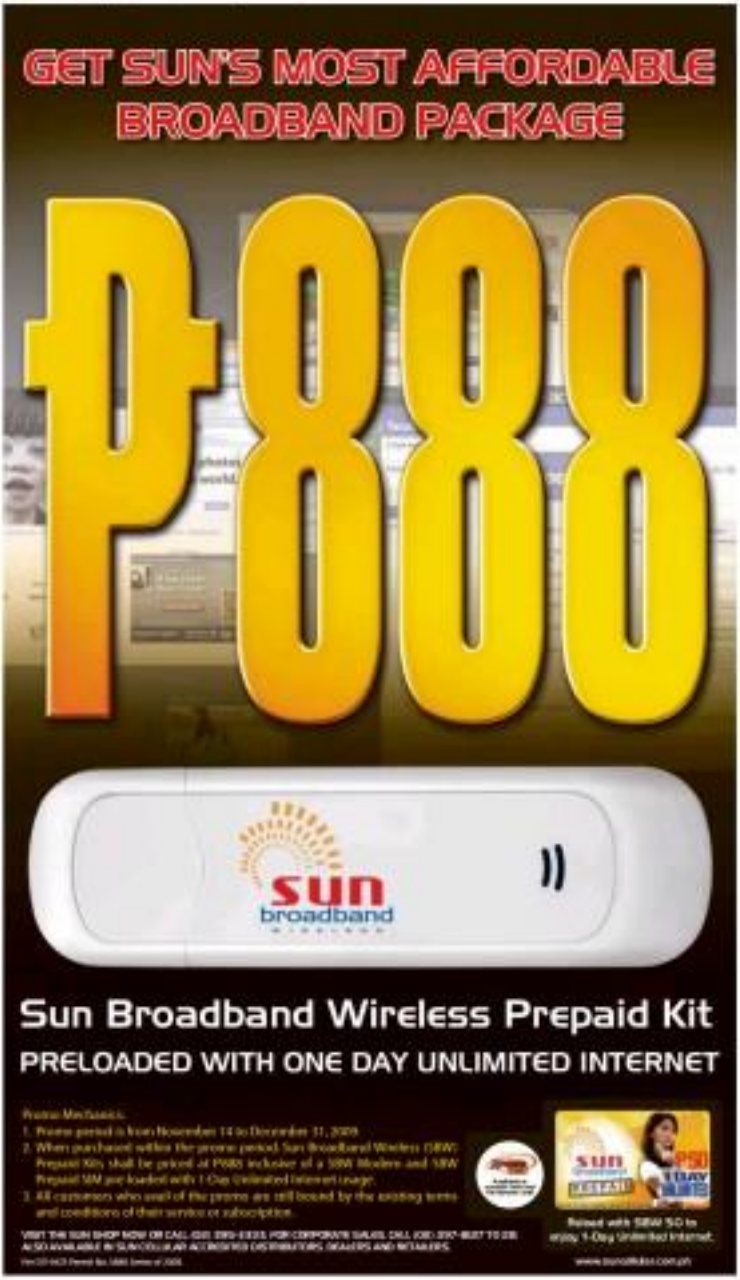
The business confidence index is measured by subtracting the number of poorly performing firms in the current quarter from that of the previous quarter. A positive index, therefore, means that optimistic firms outnumbered the pessimistic ones.

The latest business confidence index is better than the +18 percent recorded in the third quarter, the -2.6 percent in the second, and the -23.9 percent in the first.

For the first quarter of 2010, the index stands at +34 percent, indicating that companies in the country expect a more pronounced recovery of the global economy resulting in better growth of the Philippine economy.

"The more buoyant business sentiment reflected expectations of better economic performances in the current and next quarters, with clearer indications of improving conditions in the global economy," the BSP said in a statement.

TRADERS /B4



Trading game of contest leader

MARKET RIDER

Don Sonnero

IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW how trading contest leader Trust Me is conducting his game. It's nothing clever or fancy. We're not for his spectacular 49.87 percent profit to him than six months or practically 100 percent on an annualized basis, his moves have been very ordinary.

One patent and certainly not an original strategy is how he executes his calls. He is very aware of the fact that profits are more made on trading rather than on trading entries. He splits his position in several trades. In addition executes them to one full sweep and price tag.

It's not astonishingly brilliant, but a somehow provides an answer to the constant problem of taking profit too quickly and reducing out on the larger time frame trend. True, taking profit too quickly...not to mention selling too soon—can greatly limit your potential return.

However, the secret of his performance lies on his stock on how he grows an optimal trade. But more than, his strategy is plain and simple. He has the discipline to play safe with first and second line issues with good trading volume and market participate such as Ayala Land (ALI), SM Prime Holdings Inc. (SMPH) and Megaworld Corp. (MEG) and just tempted to gamble on high risk high-return stocks on evidentially doubt. When he does that as he has done so, he picks on speculative stocks with credible unfolding story line update such as Prime Gateway Philippines Inc. (PGP) and Philweb Corp. (PWEB) much earlier on in the game. But, again, he does not hold on to these third liners for long. This results into a low risk and capital exposure strategy.

On the virtual contest

The detailed record for the virtual players' trade this week will come out

(See Market Rider on Funding Inc. p4, due to space limitations. In the meantime, below is the additional data on the portfolio summary and performance results of the contest for week 23 covering Nov. 9-13, 2000, which we are unable to print last time.

Bottom line spin

It may be disappointing to see that

there seems to be nothing new the way Trust Me operates. Believe me, there is really no logical method on how to capture why stocks go up and down even though plenty of theories have been advanced now and before. That is not a simple method to do.

For sure, Teh has also something to do with it. Like what the legendary Luc Tiu, known for his great discourse on "The Art of Situ" had said, "success does not depend only on the knack of the 'on course and effort' of a man."

(You may reach the Market Rider at market.rider@inquirer.com.ph or directly at donsonnero@yahoo.com)

Overall Performance Standings and Portfolio Summary
As of the Period Ending Week 23: November 9 - 13, 2000

Ongpin firm to undertake backdoor listing

By Doris C. Dantes

FORMER TRADE SECRETARY ROBERTO Ongpin is set to use newly acquired Masterpiece Plastics Inc. as a backdoor listing vehicle for his property unit, Alphaland Development Inc., at the stock market.

The Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday suspended the trading in Masterpiece stocks pending the submission by the company of a comprehensive disclosure on the planned backdoor listing.

Masterpiece told the local bourse that its board of directors had approved an agreement with existing shareholders of Alphaland for the backdoor listing.

The proposed backdoor listing will involve the exchange of new shares of Masterpiece arising from a proposed increase in its authorized capital stock from P400 million to P5 billion.

Six shares of Alphaland will be exchanged for every 5.08 new shares of Masterpiece.

The company seeks to list up to 1.265 billion new primary shares.

Backdoor listing takes place when an unlisted company acquires or merges with a listed firm.

Shares of Masterpiece surged in previous months as the market anticipated the infusion of Alphaland into the listed company.

Masterpiece used to be controlled by the Lawsian family and was engaged in the plastic packaging business.

The Lawsians spun off Masterpiece's incidental business into a new company prior to the sale of its controlling stake to Ongpin.

Alphaland's flagship project is the Southgate Tower, a shopping mall and business process outsourcing hub near the Ilo-Ilao-Magallanes Metro Pasay-Parañaque 5 avenue. The property had been idle for 20 years until Ongpin acquired it from the Puyat family.

Ongpin's property company is also developing a prime lot on Ayala Avenue in Makati City into an office tower.

It also signed an agreement with the Ong Sotoan of the Philippines to develop the Nino Darby property, also on Ayala, into a mixed-use development.

Alphaland also plans to launch a 22-hectare project at the Manila Bay reclamation site (between SM Mall of Asia and Ninoy Aquino International) the Alphaland Bay City, which will include a hotel in the middle of a marina, inspired by Dubai's Burj Al Arab Hotel.

Ongpin, who represents the London-based Salomon group, has been active on Philippine merger and acquisition deals in the last few years.

Ongpin has a stake, whether it in personal capacity or on behalf of Salomon, in blue-chip firms Petron Corp., Manila Electric Co., San Miguel Corp. and Philex Mining Corp.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of November 25, 2004

CURRENCIES

November 25, 2004 Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Bank Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	dollar	1.000000	1.000000	56.1130
Japan	yen	0.009480	0.009480	0.5319
United Kingdom	pound	1.814100	1.814100	101.8000
Hong Kong	dollar	0.128833	0.128833	7.2300
Switzerland	franc	0.766000	0.766000	42.9900
Canada	dollar	0.758170	0.758170	42.5500
Singapore	dollar	0.585106	0.585106	32.8350
Australia	dollar	0.762340	0.762340	42.7800
Euro area	euro	1.339000	1.339000	75.1300
Taiwan	dollar	0.029727	0.029727	1.6683
Brunei	dollar	0.581486	0.581486	32.6300
Indonesia	rupiah	0.000101	0.000101	0.0057
Thailand	baht	0.024144	0.024144	1.3550
Korea	won	0.000948	0.000948	0.0532
Malaysia	ringgit	0.263504	0.263504	14.7900
UAE	dirham	0.272294	0.272294	15.2800
China	yuan	0.120800	0.120800	6.7800
Denmark	krone	0.179900	0.179900	10.0900
India	rupee	0.021384	0.021384	1.2000
Norway	krone	0.167000	0.167000	9.3700
Saudi Arabia	riyal	0.266667	0.266667	14.9700
Sweden	krona	0.147000	0.147000	8.2500
Vietnam	dong	0.000064	0.000064	0.0036

Megaworld raises ₱5B from retail bond sale

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY TYCOON ANDREW Tan's Megaworld Corp. has completed a ₱5-billion fund-raising through a retail bond sale.

Megaworld said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that the five-year retail bonds raise over 2.9 times oversubscribed. They carry a coupon rate of 8.46 percent a year.

BDO Capital & Investment Corp. and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. acted as joint lead managers, underwriters and bookrunners for the bond offering.

Local credit watcher Credit Rating and Investor Services Philippines Inc. (CRISP) has assigned an 'SAA' rating to the proposed bond issuance. This is CRISP's highest rating, which reflects Megaworld's very strong capacity to repay obligations.

The amount to be generated from the offering will be used for the development of Mega-world's new 8.39-hectare mixed-use resource in North Bonifacio, Taguig.

Megaworld has committed to invest at least ₱35.45 billion over the next 20 years to develop the North Bonifacio property. Located to the northern district of Fort Bonifacio.

The company was recently awarded the right to develop the prime property as the joint venture partner of the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority.

The BCDA will be paid an upfront cash of ₱3.06 billion plus ₱356.62 million in annual revenue for the next 12 years.

BSP likely to keep key rates steady

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas may keep its policy rates at current record-low levels, citing the need for a less turbulent risk environment to stimulate the economy.

Although the global economy has been showing signs of improvement, a monetary policy supporter of growth is still needed to avoid choking the recovery of the domestic economy, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"We have already seen the worst, but the future is not going to be a walk in the park," Tetangco said in an interview.

The overnight borrowing and lending rates of the central bank currently stand at 4 and 6 percent, respectively, the lowest in history of the BSP. The rates were brought down through a series of cuts from December 2008 to July this year.

The next reduction is seen meant to influence banks to cut their lending rates as well and encourage borrowings.

Monetary officials and borrowings should help boost consumption and investment activities while the Philippines was feeling the ill effect of recession in industrialized nations.

Added by a low interest rate environment and higher spending by the government, officials said the Philippine economy measured in terms of gross domestic product, avoided recession and grew by 0.6 percent in the first quarter and 1.5 percent in the second.

What "remittance" means to OFWs during Christmas

Today, the phenomenon of the Filipino Diaspora is a daily occurrence that has become decidedly entrenched in our culture, a source of the country's pride and continued progress because of the contribution of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) remittances to the economy. But more importantly, it has become the reshaping of many Filipino families' hope for a better future.

No doubt, work abroad pays dividends compared to a job here – the primary reason for the ceaseless increase of OFWs. The lives of a number of families here have undergone a positive change because of a loved one who had been fortunate enough to find "greener pastures" beyond our shores. However, the simple motto, "no pain, no gain," proved true as it tackled the lifestyle of most OFWs. As their decision to work overseas brought monetary gain that alleviated the financial hardships of their family, it simultaneously brought emotional pain that aggravated their loneliness. Though it is a subject that has been broached many times, having away from their loved ones remains to be one of the greatest sacrifices of OFWs.

Christmas particularly brings about a paradox of emotions for most OFWs. The supposed season of joy is the loneliest time for an OFW who has to spend the holidays away from his family. It is this nature of the season that generates the increased influx of remittances to the Philippines. For majority of OFWs, their remittance during Christmas is a way of making their presence felt back home. It is an expression of their love for their families and their commitment to providing only the best that they could give to their loved ones.

This is a sentiment that is well understood by Metrocentex Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank). Metrobank provides efficient and reliable remittance products and services for the persevering OFW through Metrobank Super Bills Padala.

Metrobank Super Bills Padala provides OFWs and their beneficiaries several remittance options for their ease and convenience:

- **Remit to Metrobank Account.** The OFW may remit directly to the beneficiary's Metrobank account and the funds get credited within 24 hours.
- **Remit to Metrobank World Cash Card.** A Metrobank World Cash Card is also an automated teller machine (ATM) card, which enables beneficiaries to claim the OFW's remitted funds at the over 480 Metrobank ATMs or the over 4,000 Banred, Megalink, and Expressnet networks nationwide. The Cash Card may also be used at the over 4 million Cirrus-Maestro ATMs worldwide.
- **Claim at a Metrobank branch.** The beneficiary may claim the OFW's remittance at any of its 580 Metrobank branches and other valued partners nationwide.
- **Over-the-Over Delivery.** Metrobank can deliver the remittance right at the beneficiary's doorstep, within 24 hours for Metro Manila, and within 48 to 72 hours for provincial addresses.
- **Remit to Other Bank's Account.** Funds are credited to the beneficiary's (Philippine) bank account within 48 hours.

With several remittance methods to choose from, Metrobank Super Bills Padala ensures that the hard-earned funds sent by the OFWs are received by their families quickly, safely and easily.

Metrobank is the country's premier universal bank. The Bank has an extensive consolidated network that spans over 1,100 automated teller machines (ATMs) nationwide, 730 local branches and 26 foreign branches, subsidiaries and representative offices. For inquiries, please contact Metrobank 24/7 Customer Hotline at 885-8585, or log on to www.metrobank.com.ph. For provincial areas, call toll-free 1-800-10-885-8585.

Metrobank
You're in good hands

Digitel, Bayan trim Q3 losses on higher sales

By Paolo G. Montecillo

Strong peso also cuts dollar loan servicing costs

TWO MEDIUM-SIZED TELECOMMUNICATIONS firms trimmed their losses at the end of the third quarter, both on the back of stronger sales and a stronger peso.

Globe Telecommunications Inc. (Digitel) posted a net loss of P184.2 million in the end of September this year, to parent company JG Summit Holdings Inc. said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

This is lower than the P12.7 billion the company lost in the same nine-month period last year.

"Consolidated cost and operating expenses increased by 36 percent to P7 billion from last year's consolidated figure of P5.2 billion," JG Summit said.

"Higher cost of sales, network-related expenses and general and administrative expenses primarily contributed to the increase," it added.

The company said its consolidated service and non-service revenues for nine-month period totaled P18.3 billion, up by nearly a third from last year's P13.7 billion. The wireless service segment, which comprised 73 percent of total revenues, grew to P13.4 billion or 38 percent higher from a year earlier.

Digitel which, through its mobile brand Sun Cellular, is the third largest telecommunications firm in the country, attributed its revenue gains to the consistent success of its unlimited service offerings for short messaging service and voice calls, which the company pioneered in the local market.

"In addition, upgrading the customer by continuously expanding network coverage through aggressive network rollouts also contributed to the increase of subscriber base," the company said.

The firm said the introduction of new services to tap the broadband market soon-to-be fueled largely by the increase in video.

Similarly, revenues stemming from higher sales of SIM packs and phone bits also grew 63.7 percent.

The company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) stood at P12.2 billion, 46 percent better than a year ago.

Earlier this year, Inez Gilbuena and its subscriber base reached nine million, making it the country's third largest telecommunications wireless broadband penetrator. Communications, Inc., which has around 3.6 million subscribers, and Chikka Telecom, Inc. with over 2.5 million.

Meanwhile, Lopez-owned Bayan Telecommunications, Inc. recorded a net loss of P103 million for the January to September period, from a P2.37 billion net loss in the same period last year. The company said its massive losses came as a result of the peso's depreciation, which increased the servicing costs of its dollar-denominated obligations.

After suffering massive losses in an extremely competitive environment, Bayantel entered a 10-year rehabilitation plan which ends in 2022.

In line with its rehabilitation, Bayantel said it would pay off about P1.3 billion in debt this year.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council announces that the following are candidates for the following positions:

A. PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN (vice Hon. **Cristina C. Estrada**, who will compulsorily retire on 30 November 2009): **GERALDEZ**, NORBERTO Y.; **ONG**, GREGORY S.; **SANDOVAL**, EDILBERTO G.; **VILLARUZ**, FRANCISCO JR. H., who were all interviewed on 18 and 19 March 2009.

B. REGULAR MEMBER OF THE LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD, representing the Active Law Practitioners: ABAD, Antonio Jr. H.; **ALDAY**, Aloysius C.; **CATABAY-LAUIGAN**, Mila Perpetua A.; **SADAC**, Ricardo L.

C. PRESIDING JUDGE of the following lower courts:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC): (NCJR) MARIKINA CITY (Br.196): ASUNCION, Miguel S.; **(REGION I) BASCO, BATANES (Br.73): BARONA**, Ramon B. **CAMPOS**, Salvador B.; **CHAUHAN**, Anita M.; **DIZON**, Rodolfo B.; **LIZARDO**, Efren C.; **OREJANA**, Silvestre Jr. D.; **(REGION IV) BATANGAS CITY (Br.84): MORALES**, Ruhazar A.; **(REGION IX) SINDANGAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE (Br.11): BAEL**, Joselino P.; **DALMAN**, Vilmois Dante D.; **LACAYA**, Reynar L.; **SALADAGA**, Roelo A.; **SALES**, Floriza P.; **TOMARONG**, Oscar D.; **(REGION X) MEDINA, MISAMIS ORIENTAL (Br.42): AGUILAR**, Samson A.; **BARBA**, Adrian L.; **BORJA**, Gregorio G.; **DELIMA**, Lolinar Sr. A.; **GALVEZ**, Judy S.; **MACABAYA**, Bonifacio M.; **MENOR**, Danilo C.; **MOLETA**, Ambrosio N.; **MUSNI**, Oscar P.; **NAVARRO**, Giovanni Alfred H.; **PADERANGA**, Gael P.; **RAGONERA**, Manuel R.; **SALCEDO**, Roy L.; **SILVOSA**, Joselito M.; **TAGARDA**, Longino G.; **GINGOOG CITY, MISAMIS ORIENTAL (Br.43): ABUL**, Godofredo Jr. B.; **AGUILAR**, Samson A.; **BANGOT**, Emelie Jr. P.; **BELLA**, Juvenal N.; **BORJA**, Gregorio G.; **MACABAYA**, Bonifacio M.; **MOLETA**, Ambrosio N.; **MUSNI**, Oscar P.; **NAVARRO**, Giovanni Alfred H.; **PADERANGA**, Gael P.; **UNDALOK**, Minahosa A.; **(REGION XI) CANTILAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR (Br.41): MAGLINTE**, Gerardo M.; **MOLETA**, Ambrosio N.; **NARAGAS**, Rafe U.; **(REGION XII) MARAWI CITY, LANAO DEL SUR (Brs.8 & 9): BUSRAN**, Lansarisan M.; **DISALO**, Gamor B.; **GURING**, Antonio M.; **LANTO**, Benjamin B.; **MACALAWI**, Alex L.; **MASORONG**, Edgar A.; **MOSLEM**, Macacuna A.; **PAPANDAYAN**, Wanida M.; **SARIP**, Tago R.;

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (MTCC): (REGION XII) BISLIG CITY, SURIGAO DEL SUR: DE CASTRO Domingo P.; **MASKARIÑO**, Franco C.; **TRIMOR**, Pastor Jr. J.;

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC): (REGION X) PLACER-SAGUAG, SURIGAO DEL NORTE: BAJAN, Julieto N.; **GONZAGA**, Robert B.; **MACARINE**, Ignacio R.; **NASAYAO**, Raul O.; **PLATIL**, Rosalie D.;

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforementioned candidates **not later than 27 November 2009 (Friday)** to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court , Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No.552-9512; Fax No.552-9607; e-mail address jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph or jbc@sc.judiciary.gov.ph).

All applicants for judicial positions must submit to the JBC ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1 (Revised September 2007); proof of age and Filipino citizenship; and 2009 Ombudsman, NBI and Police Clearances, sworn medical certificate and results of medical examinations, and other requirements before the date of their interview.

Those who fail to submit the necessary requirements shall neither be interviewed nor considered for nomination.

18 November 2009

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

Corporate culture

KNOW ME WHO YOUR FRIENDS are and I will show you who you are, so the saying goes.

In business, the same adage can be paraphrased to read "Show me who your boss is and I will tell you why you think, talk or behave in certain ways."

Studies show that people who keep regular three-day eight-hour work schedules actually spend, on the aggregate, more time with their fellow employees than with their families.

The seven or eight hours of night time sleep should not, strictly speaking, be included in counting the time they interact with the family because when a person takes a normal rest, he is for to the world.

As soon as he steps into dreamland, he becomes inert to his surroundings, including his family.

And even if weekends are spent at home, the employee's thoughts often stray to the workplace thinking about unfinished assignments, problems with co-employees and successful deals he closes on the job.

Under these conditions, it is not unrealistic that "subsystem" in the organization staff the people who work daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) imbibe into their system the culture of their work environment.

Dress code

Legalities and rules aside, the norms of conduct in a company are set by the Big Boss, or the official authorized by the board of directors to call the shots.

If the Boss(es) has has a flair for stylish or designer clothes, expect the subordinates to aspire for nearly to emulate, although less expensive, fashion.

Never mind if wearing a woolen suit or blazer is uncomfortable or may cost an arm and a leg. The physical or financial inconvenience is a small price to pay for coming into with the conventions down-under and to be seen as "fit" with the fashion of the executive floor.

It's also a subtle way of manag-

ing the ego of the fashion conscious executive.

Fun there is a caveat in this act. The boss should not be upstaged in this department; otherwise, the attention-grabbing employee may find his pay slip scrutinized for possible downward revision.

The fashion style is easier to follow if, for security reasons, the boss dresses down on purpose or wears simple office clothes. The employees can wear whatever clothes they like as long as they are decent looking.

Of course, nothing beats having an office uniform with the company supplying the materials and labor to ensure compliance with the specifications on form and style.

Mannerisms

The imitation process also includes the private and public mannerisms of the boss.

If he likes to face his statements with high-sounding words and phrases, the staff is quick to follow suit and mouth them as part of its vocabulary.

His gestures, manner of talking and body language become the assertion norm in meetings inside and outside the office.

For the closing act to be complete, the fawning employee has to adopt the political leanings or views of the boss in politics, sports and other related issues.

That knowledge will come in handy in case the employee is asked about those matters. He cannot and should not be perceived to be out of sync with the boss's frame of mind.

It's through the employee's actions outside the office that third parties get to know about the boss' attitude toward the company's customers and the public, in general.

Like boss, like employees. If the boss believes good customer service is the way to honest profits and he walks that talk, the employees will not act differently in public.

An employee who is arrogant or disrespectful to a customer is the product of a boss who thinks profits, regardless of the way they are realized, are the end ideal for all of business.

Work hours

Another aspect of corporate life on which the boss has a strong influence is the number of hours worked.

If he is a workaholic who cannot cut the lonely clock a decoration and expects his staff to be on call any time of the day (weekends and holidays included), do not be surprised if a similar mind set runs through the company, supposedly headed for the higher echelons.

The rule of the thumb in this situation is, as much as possible stay in the office until the boss leaves. You'll never know when he'll leave you, your "management" adviser could be lurking close to your paycheck.

Doctor or lawyer engagements are not immune from excessive inclusions. They are subject to suspension or cancellation depending on the boss's mood or caprice.

In this environment, the self-employed professional should always be fully charged and within easy reach (even in the bathroom) to make sure the boss is not kept waiting in case he rings you up.

Sounds stressful? It sure is, but if the inside-off is a faster paycheck or an additional source of income, the threat to health and family life may be worth the life-style status.

Thank your lucky stars if your boss is the type who thinks work is a means to an end not the end itself, so that weekends and holidays should be spent with the family or friends.

You can enjoy the best of both worlds.

(For feedback, please write to opal.silverio@inquirer.com.ph)

Double-digit rise in remittances seen

From page B1

Goldman Sachs said remittances would further grow in the coming months.

As a consequence, it expects the peso to strengthen to 44.50 to a dollar within the next three months, 44.3 within the next six months, and 43.5 within the next 12 months.

"We expect remittances to become increasingly more supportive of the [peso]," Goldman Sachs said.

This view is supported by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., who said he was confident that remittances would grow by at least 4 percent this year.

Earlier this week, Tetangco said he was confident that remittances would grow by at least 4 percent this year.

Latest data from the BSP showed that remittances from overseas Filipinos grew by 4.1 percent to $1.4 billion in the first eight months of the year from $1.35 billion in the same period last year.

The BSP said the bulk of the remittances came from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Taiwan, Italy and Malaysia.

Traders upbeat over economic prospects

From page B1

The survey cited low interest rates, benign inflation, and stable peso exchange rate as macroeconomic factors that helped improve the economic sentiment.

Sentiment was much bleaker earlier in the year when most industries ailed narrow fell into recession. There were earlier estimates that the Philippine economy would contract in 2009, although those have dissipated following growth of the domestic economy by 1.5 percent in the second quarter.

In the first quarter, growth stood at a measly 0.6 percent.

Officials said the faster growth of the economy in the third quarter would help restore investors' confidence in the country, officials said. Economic managers are optimistic that the economy will actually post a faster growth.

The improved investment sentiment is an increase in the capacity utilization of businesses. According to the survey, average capacity utilization rate of respondent firms rose to 69.8 percent this quarter from 66.6 percent in the previous quarter.

The Quarterly Survey of Philippine Business and the Economy also showed that higher capacity utilization was indicated an increase in production and demand for goods of respondent firms.

Businesses also said they felt an improvement in credit access in the current quarter. The credit access index stood at +0.1 percent for this quarter, a turnaround from the -0.8 recorded previously.

The positive credit access index means that respondent firms who believe that they can secure loans without any problem outnumber those who claim otherwise.

Despite improved business sentiment, however, economists said that did not necessarily mean the central bank would reverse its monetary policy stance.

He said the BSP would still keep the low interest rate environment to further bolster growth of the economy.

The BSP had implemented a series of policy rate cut from December 2008 to July 2009, bringing down the overnight borrowing and lending rates to historic lows of 4 and 6 percent, respectively.

The BSP said monetary should be more pronounced before it would implement a hike in interest rates.

The survey was conducted between Oct. 1 and Nov. 6, and covered 1,200 firms nationwide.

Geothermal firm increases planned fixed bond offer to ₱12B

By Aiby R. Barias

PHILEC GEOTHERMAL CORP., the country's leading producer of geothermal energy, is offering up to ₱12 billion worth of fixed rate bonds to raise funds for the refinancing of its outstanding loans.

In a paid ad yesterday, EDC said it would issue ₱10 billion worth of bonds, with an oversubscription allowance of ₱2 billion.

This was higher than the company's initial target bond offering of ₱6 billion with an oversubscription of ₱4 billion.

EDC said its five-and-a-half-year bonds, which will mature on June 4, 2015, carried an interest of 8.6418 percent, while its seven-year bonds, maturing on Dec. 4, 2016, carried an interest of 9.1527 percent.

According to the Lopez-led firm, the offer started on Wednesday (Nov. 18) and will end on Nov. 26. The minimum investment was set at ₱100,000 and in increments of ₱10,000 thereafter.

Joint lead underwriters for the fixed rate retail bond issuance were BDO Capital and Investment Corp., BCBC, BPI Capital and SB Capital Investment Corp., the company added.

EDC earlier said it was confident that investors would respond positively to its issuance, after securing a Triple A rating from Philratings.

"Getting the highest possible corporate credit rating affirms EDC's good credit standing and excellent fiscal management," said EDC president Richard Tantoco.

Proceeds from the issuance would be used to partially refinance or "redenominate" EDC's outstanding foreign currency-denominated loans and for general corporate purposes.

Under its asset-cum-refinancing plan, EDC originally was ₱46 billion. It had earlier raised ₱9 billion from a yen-denominated private placement, while another ₱6 billion will come in the form of internally generated cash.

Ayuntamiento project to start in December

By Reena F. Domingo

MALL BUILDER DOT KONSTRUCT INC. bagged the ₱1.29-billion contract to rebuild the historic Ayuntamiento building in Intramuros.

The building, under the plan, will become the home of the Bureau of Treasury (BTr).

The reconstruction and restoration of "what was probably the most beautiful building of Manila," which was reduced to ruins by heavy bombings during the Second World War, broke ground yesterday.

National Treasurer Roberto D. Tan said the new building would also house a branch of the state-run Landbank of the Philippines and possibly a satellite Office of the Secretary of Finance.

Tan said the renovated Ayuntamiento "will become a symbol of our great heritage."

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves, who was present in the groundbreaking ceremony, said the long-awaited building will be "an appropriate home for the custodians of the people's money."

According to Danilo D. Tamayo, president and chair of DOT Konstruct, the construction proper will start on Dec. 9 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.

"We will restore the grandeur of the old Ayuntamiento," Tamayo said. "This is important considering that 'the buildings in front of it—like the Palacio del Gobernador and the Manila Cathedral— are historically-important."

Tamayo said this project was his company's first with the government, adding that DOT Konstruct won the bidding for the contract on the strength of its track record.

DOT Konstruct has built projects ranging from projects like Ayala Land and SM Prime buildings.

Included in the firm's portfolio are the SM malls, specifically the Mall of Asia in Pasay City, and the Ayala group's Greenbelt 1 in Makati City.

DOT Konstruct also built a high-rise condominium Lancaster Suites Tower 1 in Mandaluyong City, a church (St. Joseph Church in Bulacan, Bulacan), a school (St. Sebastian's College in Cavite) and the Ayala Technohub along Edsa.

The company hosted four rivals in the bid for the contract—A.M. Davis & Co. Inc., Alfonso Construction Corp., 100 Century Inc., and Yuchengco Builders Corp.

Designed by Juan Hervas, an the Diablo Palace, the Ayuntamiento was completed in 1738.

The 5,000 square-meter site is at the corner of Andres Soriano Avenue and Cabildo Street.

The Ayuntamiento housed various governmental divisions of the Spanish administration, including the city hall and several government offices of Manila. It was damaged during an earthquake in 1863.

Otto may drill new wells in Galoc

AUSTRALIAN FIRM OTTO ENERGY LTD. is eyeing three more prospects in the Galoc oil field in offshore Palawan, to further boost production.

Under the Galoc Phase 2 development options, Otto Energy said the consortium was targeting to increase 2P reserves by 5 million barrels of oil by drilling two more wells, which are estimated to yield about 6,000 barrels of oil per day.

Three wells may be drilled in the northwestern portion of the Galoc structure to access undeveloped reserves.

Otto earlier said the Galoc oil field had another 6 million barrels in gross contingent oil resources in three tiny new wells. This was on top of the remaining reserves in the field, estimated at 8.4 million barrels as of end-June.

Prior to the start of production in October 2008, oil reserves were estimated at 18 million barrels.

The Galoc consortium is expected to undertake seismic interpretation and prepare cost of drilling costs and schedule starting this year until 2010, Otto Energy said in a regulatory filing.

Otto holds a 32.24 percent stake in Galoc Production Co. WI, operator of the Galoc oil field.

Currently, the Galoc oil field is operating at a rate of 11,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd), down from its initial rate of 18,000 bopd. To be, spending expenses were estimated at $25 a barrel while Phase 1 capital expenditure stood at $13 per barrel.

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BUSINESS

Antipolo-Tondo LRT extension eyed

Marubeni doing feasibility study on the plan

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (LRTA) is considering the extension on both ends of its Manila-to-Manila overland train system for it to reach from the North Harbor area in Tondo to Antipolo City in Rizal.

LRTA administrator Melquiades Robles said industrial firm Mitsubishi Philippines Corp. is currently conducting a feasibility study on lengthening the LRT Line 2 system to extend the reach of the mass transport system.

The plans under study calls for extending the LRT-2 westward to the North Harbor in Manila's Tondo district, and eastward to Antipolo's Masinag junction.

"The impact of this is big. We'll be connecting the two to the mezzanine," Robles said in an interview on Thursday.

He said the costs for the ongoing study, which started two months ago, are being shouldered by the Japanese government through a grant. The official, however, declined to give details regarding the grant.

"We will don't know what mode will be used [to fund the project]," Robles said, noting that the important element at this point is to get the technical specifications of the plan loosely assigned out.

"The study is ongoing and we're just waiting for their feedback," Robles said, referring to the local subsidiary of one of the country's largest trading firms, Marubeni Corp.

The extension to Tondo and Antipolo, Rizal, had been part of the original plans for LRT-2, which is the country's newest but least utilized train system.

LRT-2 currently runs 13.8 kilometers and transports five cities in Metro Manila, namely Pasig, Marikina, Quezon City, San Juan and Manila along the major thoroughfares of Marcos Highway, Aurora Boulevard, Ruben Ongpauco Boulevard, Legarda and Recto Avenue.

Other overhead train systems in the metro are the LRT's Line 1 (Roosevelt to Baclaran in Pasay), Monumento to Caloocan to Bacoor in Paranaque, along Taft and Rizal avenues.

The Metro Rail Transit or MRT system meanwhile, travels along Edsa from its intersection with Taft Avenue in Pasay to North Avenue in Quezon City. This was built to help decongest Metro Manila's main urban highway.

Potential vote count tragedy

By Brenda M. Corbete

COMMENTARY

FORTUNE MILLION VOTERS are expected to vote next year—40 percent of them, or 16 million, will count from the automated ballots. Unless we are convinced beyond any reasonable doubt that the machines, the counts from the canvass, and those from other sectors, might be counted erroneously (and probably intentionally). At that second time in our history, we should announce, for what the doctor Joseph Stalin said: "It's not the people who vote that count, it's the people who count the votes."

It is the Comelec that will count our votes. But will the Comelec give justice to our people by at least counting our votes properly?

Mr. Speaker, I have reservations regarding recent actions by the Comelec. Its identity has not been forthcoming to our planned 2010 automated election.

Source code

The source code describes the way the computers will count our votes. The law states that the code should be made available to any "interested political party or group which may conduct their own review thereof." This way, those third parties can make corrections to the code or stop any contemplated illegal election results.

So far, this law has not been tested. Comelec has stated that this code will be released only in February 2011. This is clearly too late to make the necessary corrections.

On Nov. 4, I talked to Frank Claveria, who has just launched his book on corruption, "Bluetooth." I asked him how he could help us get the source code to prevent corruption during the elections. It is happened that an official of Smartmatic was with him, who told me that the code was already with Comelec. More than three weeks ago, Comelec gave it to a foreign group called Syracuse, which is charging P75 million to review the code.

If this is the case, why does Comelec refuse to give this code to interested Filipino groups that can make the review at no cost to election body? Because of this, Comelec loses a credibility problem.

Transparency in counting

The manner of computer software is that one can program to obscure, as the last resource, voters can self-destruct and leave no trace. If this is done at the precinct level, there is no way for the watchers to see if the computers counted the votes properly or not.

It is therefore suggested that manual voting and counting be done at the precinct level. This can then be submitted to independent verification by the watchers. After this, the verified results can be transmitted through a fully automated computerized process. This way, the final computerized count at the national level can be corroborated with the manual count at the precinct level.

System comparison

Below is a table that compares the three elections' systems that we can use for the 2010 elections. The manual system which takes 40 days, the Comelec's Precinct Count Optical Scan which takes three days, and the alternate Open Electoral System which takes six days. The OES is fully automated except for the manual voting and counting at the precinct level.

While it is true that the OES system will take three days longer than the PCOS systems, it is 36 days shorter than the current system. These days it is small price to pay in exchange for the assurance that the votes will be counted because of independent eye

ELECTION PROCESS

Process	Manual	Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS)	Alternate Open Electoral System (OES)
Voting	8 hours	8 hours	8 hours
Precinct Counting	12 hours	1 hour	12 hours
Canvassing/ Municipal/Provincial Level	10 days	1 day	1 day
Total	40 days	3 days	4 days

election by the watchers.

Appointment with history

The Comelec officials, led by Executive Chair Jose Melo, have an appointment with history, for they can make or break the 2010 elections with their decisions.

Unless they give the interested Filipino parties the source code by Dec. 1, there will be no time to make the needed corrections to ensure the correct counting of votes for the May elections. And unless they provide a system where there will be independent confirmation at the precinct level by poll watchers, there will be no assurance that the final computer count will reflect the actual votes at the precinct level.

The 16 million votes of the appreciational sector, together with the 27 million votes from the other sectors, will run the great risk of being erroneously counted.

(The author is chair of Agricultural, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects. For comments, email agriwatch@yahoo.com or text to 0920 9022127.)

SM City Rosario Opens November 20

Third rice tender planned to boost supply

By Nico T. Dizon

THE PHILIPPINES—THE WORLD'S largest rice importer—may hold a third tender for rice staple grain on Dec. 21 to bring total imports for next year to 2.05 million tons.

According to the National Food Authority (NFA), the government is set to auction off supply contracts for another 800,000 tons of white rice through the agency, its assistant administrator Jose Cordero told the business in an interview.

NFA previously announced tenders for 600,000 tons on Dec. 1 and 6.

Last November, NFA bought 250,000 tons of white rice from Thailand and Vietnam.

Cordero sought to ease expectations that the fresh tender signals the Philippines will buy more rice than the 2.4 million tons in 2008 and the 1.78 million tons for this year.

"It tender does not mean the NFA will accept any price. In the end, NFA has the option to accept or not to accept an offer. We keep our options open," Cordero said.

What is clear is that official government reports point to a large need for rice. Given the prices offered in the May 3 tender, government official, including Agriculture Secretary Jesiliar Yap, have not ruled the possibility of additional tenders.

"There's always that possibility that we will add tenders," Cordero said.

The weighted average price of rice offered during the Nov. 4 tender was $526 per ton. The winning bids were at $468.50 and $480 per ton.

NFA deputy administrator Ludovico Isaac neither said it would be good for the Philippines to lock in supply at relatively low prices before other countries impose their own rice export controls.

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Get your shopping 'fix' through mobile phones

CONCEPCION Dizimiano, CEO of iCan Marketing, aims to improve the quality of life of their consumers through an advance mobile commerce system.

Real power of shopping anytime, anywhere is within reach

By Vanessa B. Hidalgo

INTERESTING AMIDST, WHEN TECHNOLOGY has virtually shrunk our world, one can say that nothing is impossible as long as you have a mobile phone within your reach.

When cellular phones got into the hands of the masses in the late 1990s, nobody thought the devices could spawn such a thing as a "mobile lifestyle."

Before, people use their mobile phones only to call and send text messages. Now, the handy gadget has the capacity to send quick e-mails, surf the Internet and access Facebook pages.

And when you thought that it couldn't get any better than this, it did.

With iCan, you can shop, order and pay for goods and services using your mobile phone.

First of its kind

The newest mobile commerce system, the first of its kind here in the Philippines, has allowed consumers to link up with their banks, credit card merchants, favorite shops, restaurants, cinemas and airlines through their mobile phones.

With iCan, "retail therapy" has become better than ever.

The system is part of the TSG group of companies, whose business is founded on commodities and physical distribution.

A brainchild of Ingles and Pesole—two of the top IT mobile solution service providers—iCan enables consumers to enjoy cashless freedom.

It also offers mobile ordering, mobile payment and content distribution from various businesses to consumers.

With Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), Ayala Malls, Ayala Cinemas, Nokia, Metro Express, Philips and Boston's acquaintance, iCan aspires to make every consumer's shopping experience as convenient and stress-free as possible.

"Almost everybody owns a mobile phone nowadays. Everyone knows how to use one. And we want our consumers to do more with their mobile phones. That's where iCan was conceived," says Concepcion Dizimiano, chief operating officer of iCan Marketing.

"SLX (present of BPI) clients can now using cashless banking transactions, which includes limousine and mobile phones. We want to tap into that market and give them new possibilities on shopping and banking experiences," she adds.

Increased purchasing power

With the simple, easy-to-read, menu-based system that is loaded onto a mobile phone, iCan demonstrates how technological advances can increase the consumer's purchasing power.

But how does iCan actually work?

First, you have to open a deposit account at any BPI branch. Upon opening, BPI will

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Balancing sales force compensation pressures

(Continued)

TO THE DEMAND TO BE ACCURATE while he/she's man-on difficult. In fact, it came with a welcome second order benefit. It was responsible for making marketing and sales efficient. They learned to practice waste-zoning (not cost-cutting).

This was true with such big budget items like distribution's inventory, delivery expenses, sales' entertainment and representation outlays, advertising, sales promo campaign materials and labor costs.

The Gerstner-IBM model

In 1993, after Lou Gerstner took over the leadership of IBM, he became famous for introducing a radical compensation scheme for the IBM sales force. He came out with a compensation formula that said sales force pay should be equal to 60 percent based on profitability, 0 percent based on sales, and 40 percent on customer satisfaction.

The compensation for profitability followed a straight forward accounting equation. It was such the 60 percent on customer satisfaction that earned the scheme its radical reputation.

But first, why give 0 percent weight for sales? Given that certain sales is not a consideration at all?

Gerstner argued that to consider profitability would be to consider sales. After all, profit comes out of sales after deducting costs.

What about the 40 percent for customer satisfaction? Of course, it's not difficult to admit that this is "doing something about your mission statement's commitment to customer focus." But will your board agree that the 40 percent constitute "a major basis for reconfiguring your sales force compensation"?

It's logically easy to build a case for this. The board only asked for "if" and not "the" major role. The 40 percent weight certainly makes for a major basis.

Sales compensation framework

But let's get back to where Gerstner started in this compensation equation. He was said to have used a popular conflict resolution method.

He first set principles.

For a sales force compensation framework that will satisfy the conflicting demands of the board, marketing and finance, here's what I propose. Profitability is first and I give it a 60 percent weight. And since profit comes from good cost management, then sales and expense together are covered. Fortunately, this priority is already included in the profit weight. Customer satisfaction (or brand is that) and it gets a 40-percent weight. Actually, because profitability is a component, the 60% it carries and customer is 60 percent weight is shared by 3 forces and not just one. This effectively makes the 40 percent of customer satisfaction as the major basis.

That's not Jesse's regulatory. It's a simple, "generally accepted" accounting equation. It makes logical and common sense not only to accountants but also to the rest of the functional business disciplines including top management and the board.

But how did Gerstner obtain the scores for customer satisfaction?

He commissioned a survey of IBM customers to find out how happy or unhappy they were with the field sales group that called on them, and whether the sales reps assisted them in attaining their purchase goals. The 40 percent was calibrated in proportion to the obtained customer satisfaction rating.

After setting and preparing principles, Gerstner proceeded to the next step. That's to get him the agreement from the initially disagreeing quarters of the board, marketing and finance, not to mention sales. This task quite some time, but Gerstner exercised good arm-wrestling diplomatic skills and, in the end, earned a consensus to go ahead.

Or what his 60 percent + 40 percent formula.

So there's our diagnosis and prescription. Essentially, we recommend that you adopt the two-stage Lou Gerstner approach. Let us know what happens.

(Thanks for your questions. Keep sending them to dreambuster. ingram@mail.com or mailto:ingram@globelink.net.)

Bread firm sees more 'dough' with P600-M plant

By Marlar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

In Gardenia facility, 'staff of life' will never run out

BIÑAN, LAGUNA—WHO SAYS THE tasteless is being bad luck?

For the Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc. (GBPI), the number is seen to bring fortune.

The company recently unveiled its newest production facility dubbed the "#4 Plant" here.

The manufacturing facility, covering two hectares of GBPI's main plant in Laguna, is capable of producing 6,000 loaves of bread an hour or nearly 150,000 loaves a day.

The facility is expected to double the company's revenue and, with expanded production capacity, it also hopes to extend its reach throughout Luzon, and Visayas and Mindanao, GBPI president and general manager.

The entire facility costs P600 million and is composed of bread-making machines imported from Germany, the Netherlands, Japan and the United States.

"With the opening of this plant, we took the bread-manufacturing process in the Philippines a notch higher. Using the latest high technology equipment to make bread completely untouched by human hands, we are now more than capable to consume providing safe and best quality products," said Limah.

GBPI started commercial production of bread products in January 1996, with a 2,000-loaf-per-hour capacity oven.

Three years later, the firm received increased production by using a fully automated manufacturing facility that produced 4,800 loaves an hour.

"Every stage in the bread manufacturing process is computer controlled," described Limah.

According to Nimoh Jallows of GBPI's research and development, production process involves mixing the ingredients, molding, proofing (or making the dough rise), baking, de-panning and cooling down the newly baked bread before packing.

The new facility utilizes an advanced dough-making and proofing system to keep the right texture of bread, a large-scale tunnel oven to ensure the bread is evenly baked, and other high-speed automated packaging lines that facilitate production "untouched by human hands."

"This will really be a big help to us," Jallows said of the #4 plant, which allows the process to be completed in one hour to six hours.

GBPI, a subsidiary of the food conglomerate QAF Group based in Singapore, sells a billion loaves of bread, buns and snack cakes a year.

It has expanded more than half of the market shares of Singapore and Malaysia.

In the Philippines, GBPI is said to be the leading bread-manufacturing company with sales reaching P11billion in 2000. Its market share in Metro Manila is reported to have exceeded 60 percent.

The company has also expanded its distribution network to Bicol CBD, Bacolod, the Ilocos region, Leyte and Samar.

GBPI brands of products from "untouched by human hands (above)." At right, the "#4 plant" is capable of producing 6,000 loaves of bread an hour.

Telco sees brighter year ahead

By Paolo G. Montecillo

ANSALDO GODINEZ TELECOM INC. expects better profits in 2001 as economic prospects improve and consumer confidence is pumped up by election campaign-related spending.

Godinez Telecom's chief executive officer Ernesto Go Montalvo said wholesome and real messaging services would continue to be the company's "bread and butter," the booming broadband market would lead the growth for the country's second largest mobile carrier.

"We have a plan to continue to build our network and we also believe that with the economy going to look better next year ... we're not resting. Investments are also doing good so hopefully, we can ride that wave," he told reporters during Telco's fifth annual Shopping Communities in Makati Sunday night.

He said clear elections next year—regardless of who wins—would help the industry, noting that "it may spur more foreign investments which will boost the economy."

On cash money sent home by overseas Filipino workers' (OFWs), which is expected to grow at a faster rate of six percent this year from a projected four percent in 2000, would also continue to fuel consumer spending and benefit the telecommunications industry.

To take advantage of the better business environment, he said, Globe would continue to build its broadband network, which it sees as the next area for growth.

He said the "telephony" market, referring to the company's core business of voice calls, is almost reaching its saturation point while short messaging services or SMS, had already matured in the country over the last decade.

"SMS and voice will continue to be our core business. We will continue to fight for our place in the market, but the consumer's growth will come from broadband," he said.

The company's broadband business continued to gain momentum as subscribers base grew almost threefold to over half a million subscribers, beating full year expectations.

The company said strong revenue growth in its broadband business helped offset lower sales from the traditional mobile and landline segments.

The company ended the third quarter with over 22.1 million subscribers, lower than the 23.7 million in the year before.

More companies now outsourcing real estate management

BY A GLOBALEDGE WORLD CORRESPONDENT

corporations are turning to outsourcing to reduce business costs.

In addition to outsourcing routine relations and accounting services, even the management of real estate occupied by businesses is being outsourced to organizations with expertise in that field.

According to a Jones Lang LaSalle study of eight leading global operations, companies are outsourcing the management of their real estate facilities in order to cut costs and to improve organizational productivity by freeing their time from internal services to focus on strategic relationship management.

"In our experience, cost savings ranging from 10 percent up to 25 percent can be achieved by organizations that are outsourcing their facilities management for the first time," says Marina Kitchiner, head of integrated facilities Management—southeast Asia for Jones Lang LaSalle.

Kitchiner says that in the Philippines, areas such as housekeeping, security, maintenance, and the floor management, among other services, are usually assigned to an administration department. But because management of these facilities is usually not the core competency of most companies, efficiency costs and resources in this area tend to be lost.

Kitchiner says many business processes outsourcing companies outsource their own facilities management because the "cost of a total" usually includes expenses related to salaries and other. Through outsourcing, they are able to offer more competitively priced contractor clients.

"Our clients in the Philippines—like a global pioneer in outsourced solutions and technology services and a leading financial services company—have outsourced management of services like reception and mail room services, as well as critical facilities like data services, networking and telephone systems that support around the clock operations."

A COMPANY specializes in outsourced services such as management of reception and mail room services, as well as critical facilities like data services and networking.

James Lang LaSalle offers a diverse range of strategic and operational management services that drive efficiency, mitigate risk and reduce costs. These add real value to clients.

THE PEPS and woman behind iCan with their CEO, Concepcion Dizon-Lanot (middle).

From page B1-1

developed an application called "Bill Mobile Wallet" into your phone. You will then be asked to use a pin number to secure your transactions.

Full capacity of mobile banking

Now, if you want to purchase tickets for the latest Harrison Ford movie opening up for hours, simply click on the "Entertainment" tab on the iCan application. From there, you may choose the movie you want to see, find out its schedule and the Ayala cinema of your choice. The system will then automatically deduct the payment from your bill account and inform Internet to reserve a seat for you.

Internet will then generate a confirmation message to your mobile phone, which you will show upon arrival at the cinema.

"We want to improve the life of our customers, as we plan to harness the full capacity of mobile banking in order to make things quicker, easier and more convenient for our customers. This is how we use technology to empower consumers to make better choices," Dizon-Lanot said.

"In addition, iCan also connects overseas Filipino workers with their families close by enabling them to shop abroad and have the items shipped and delivered to their loved ones back home by sending the confirmation message to their families."

This technology is powered by an advanced encryption that secures all transaction details. Shopping everything available to bill, in addition, the customer can check his or her record of purchases with BPI.

"After they check their deposit account, they will see the full details of their transactions with iCan. All they have to do is click the instant BPI branch and they can see their purchases in iCan," Dizon-Lanot said.

PEPs considered the system were in anticipation from so-called "network breakdowns," Dizon-Lanot replied that "there is very little chance that such events will occur."

'Interesting'

Jim adds that this technology has undergone several stages of testing before it was launched into the market.

Aurelio "Gigi" Montemayor, president of BPI, has described the product to be "an interesting one."

And he is certain that this will give customers "the real power of mobile shopping."

For the team behind iCan, the system will contribute to the expansion of markets here and abroad.

That team has, in effect, provided customers total access to an advanced technology that offers precision and speed in terms of shopping, bills payment and delivery of goods.

"Since everyone can use a mobile phone, we can now offer consumers the real power of shopping anytime, anywhere," said Dizon-Lanot.

Easy-to-read accounting book for budding traders

An accountant and her non-CPA husband create a compelling read

By Marna Rodriguez Co
Contributor

IT'S AMAZING HOW THESE PEOPLE run their own businesses for business academics preparing business plans] have no such sales and market related information as their respective.

Similarly, they tend to be quite savvy on technical aspects, like what tools and equipment to use, where to get the raw materials and at what price, and how long it takes to make a product or provide a service.

Yet, when it comes to projecting their financial statements, they (and even business majors) usually get lost.

When they attend a seminar on business planning, they're usually asked to use prepared templates to project their income statements and cash flow requirements. But when they get to the balance sheet, they are hard pressed making it balance. And they don't know why. If or when they finally do, it usually takes them a few days or even weeks to succeed.

There's a new book for entrepreneurs and budding entrepreneurs who have little or no background in accounting. It goes by a long title, "Having a hard time preparing your financial statements in doing a business plan? You don't need an accountant (Well, almost!)."

The book starts with a self-assessment exercise. This confirms how much the readers know about their business, i.e., how much they know in selling and marketing their product or services—and what they use, namely: men, money, materials, machinery and maintenance and the rules that govern them.

With these out of the way, they are introduced to the accounting equation. This is nothing more than: (a) the total amount of whatever an enterprise owns and uses, equals (b) the amount of credit availed of, plus (c) the funds invested by the owner in the business.

What follows next is a chapter called the "Working Papers" Unlike the usual templates, this uses the accounting equation on a single spreadsheet to provide the data for preparing the income statement, the cash flow statement, and the balance sheet....one that's not force balanced.

However, the entrepreneurs need to be comfortable using electronic spreadsheets. If they're not, they should ask someone who is, while bearing in mind that computer programs have become very, very user friendly.

Eventually the readers come up on a section on how to transfer the outputs of these "Working Papers" in to the standard formats of the financial statements.

There is as well a "What Happens If..." section to cover different business ventures (services, trading, or manufacturing) and the legal forms of business (sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations).

Announced in a typical chart of accounts, which entrepreneurs can modify with the help of their accountant to suit the needs of their own business.

This reference manual has been prepared by Imelda Dee-Libiquet and her husband, Salvador.

As a CPA, Imelda made sure that developments in accounting and business taxation are covered.

Salvador, a non-accountant, toned down the accounting gibberish for readers who never took accounting or forgot their accounting.

Readers should find the book easy to follow as I have, and I'm not an accountant, far from one.

The book is available at a retail price of P250 per copy at all the eight outlets of General Books (http://www.central.com.ph).

Filipino males' vanity now under scrutiny

GLOBAL MARKET INTELLIGENCE COMpany Synovate recently released its findings on male vanity from the Asiabbs market survey.

In Chat study 35 percent of males in Metro Manila admit they looks are indeed important to them, while 28 percent consider themselves sexy.

Results of the survey tend to support claims that men are now less likely to gauge their masculinity based on the use or non-use of beauty products.

Almost 70 percent of respondents do not believe men who use beauty products are less masculine as men who do not.

Also, 66 percent disagree with the statement that men are inside fun of if they spend too much time on their appearance.

Looking young

Based on the results of the survey, the standard of men's looks in the Philippines lies in maintaining a youthful look and in having good hygiene.

Features that have been identified as the absolute requirements before any man can be described as good looking are good hygiene and fresh breath, according to 99 percent of respondents.

Also, virtually all men and women interviewed said they preferred the look of a clean-shaven face.

Asked if a man's appearance matters with age, only 35 percent of both males and females agree.

Men's beauty products

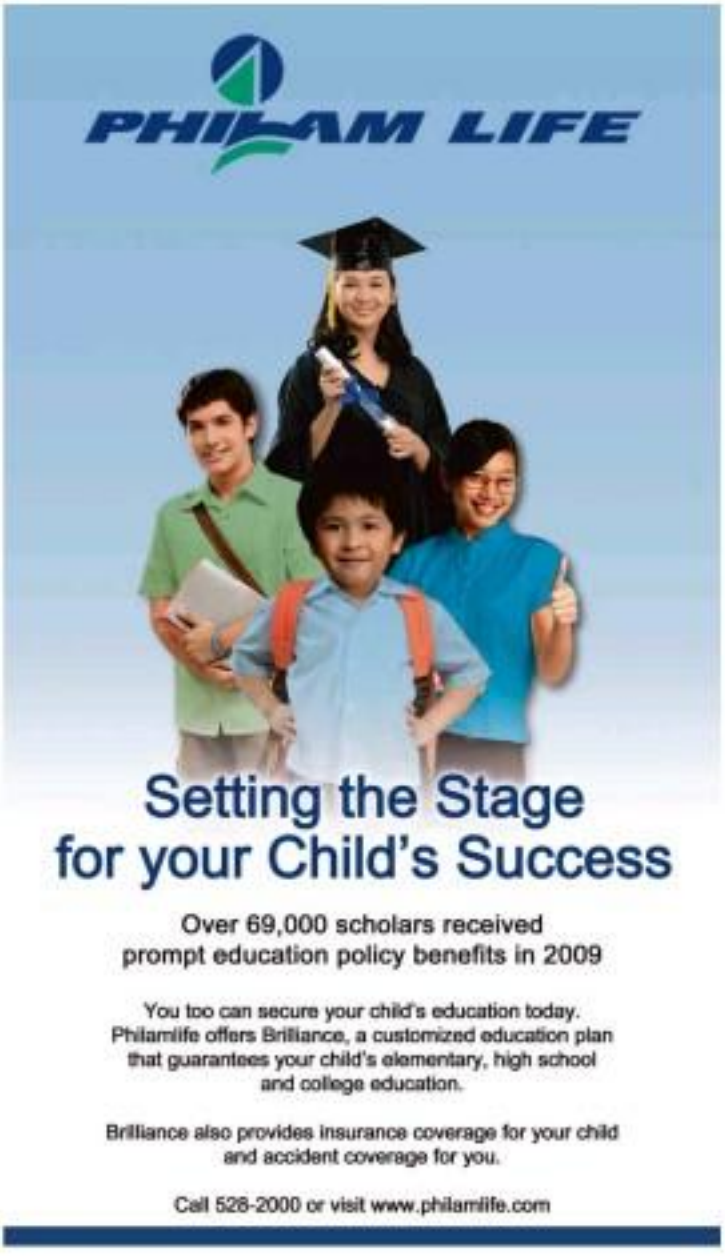
Still, while the majority have accepted that the use of beauty products does not make one any less of a man, Filipino consumers of these products is still limited to a select few.

The commonly used products are perfumes and colognes (81 percent), deodorants (79 percent), mouthwash (57 percent), hair conditioners (52 percent), hair spray and hair gels (47 percent). Conversely, only a small part of the total population have admitted to the use of products such as facial moisturizers (32 percent), lip balms (11 percent), oil control films (8 percent), facial masks (7 percent), and pore packs (3 percent).

Also, there are not very many men who are willing to be caught with these products when they go out. Only 26 percent admitted to bringing their grooming products outside the home; the majority prefer to keep the habit of vanity limited to only the home front.

For whom are the Filipino men of today making an effort to look good? 72 percent of Filipinos say that they try to look good for themselves, while 24 percent say that they try to please their partners, and 4 percent say that it is for their friends. It is more than a mere quest for vanity, it is all about taking better care of themselves, to look good and feel good.

Synovate is the market research arm of Aegis Group plc, which generates consumer insights to arrive at competitive marketing solutions. Synovate employs over 6,000 people across 62 countries.



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STALLCIA
ASIAN PACIFIC

Spotlight on topnotch Pinoy marketers

By Roger Pe

I CONSIDER IT THE DRIVER OF growth for Philippine business and economy.

The Agora Awards, an annual project of Philippine Marketing Association, deserves a big hand for pushing the socioeconomic development of our country.

The success of Filipino marketing excellence marks its 30th year of raising the spotlight on creativity, innovation and topnotch—virtues that have propelled Filipinos as world class marketers.

The Agora is a prestige laden marketing award that has started way in the Philippines and been adopted by the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation.

Since 1979, the Agora awards have honored distinguished individuals and companies who have made significant contributions in the marketing profession.

WINNERS of the 2009 Agora Awards stand alongside officers of the Philippine Marketing Association.

Awards body deserves a big hand for pushing the socioeconomic development of our country.

The winners

Alliance Data International is one of the leading trained teen manufacturers in the Philippines. Its high-quality teen and tahinos products are currently exported to over 40 countries. Even though it is not exactly a household name in the country, the global winner for its products is no food nut in bran.

"We don't have aggressive TV and radio campaigns. Our biggest marketing strategy through the leadership of our president and CEO Jonathan Dee, is to ensure that we have first-rate quality products," says Teresita Gachingca, SVP and COO of Alliance Bran.

Despite the lack of large-than-life ad campaigns, it remains one of the most profitable corporations and is the 2009 Agora awards for Export Marketing.

Noteworthy

Procter and Gamble is one of the most globally recognized corporations in the world. So it is definitely a noteworthy achievement for Pama Procter to become the highest ranking and only Asian female geo, and manager in P&G's global Cincinnati headquarters.

Procter-Pama's business innovation for Pampers—P&G's biggest brand that reaches the lives of 25 million babies in over 100 countries every day.

"We are very analytical, very creative and very curious. Filipinos are also known to be one of the most collaborative people in the world, which is very effective when you work in a multinational corporation," Francisco emphasizes.

Her outstanding leadership has won her Agora's Overseas Marketing Excellence.

Siri Pag, founder, president and CEO of Sirpa Publishing Group is 2009 Agora Award winner for Medium Scale Entrepreneurship.

Her company has revolutionized fashion and photography in printing and, color separation, producing high-quality, world-class fashion and lifestyle publications.

ABS-CBN Foundation received the Agora Award for Advocacy Marketing for rightly endorsing the "Save La Mesa Watershed" project and for pushing media Education Television and the Bayan Foundation.

"Winning in the Agora awards is an indicator that we are reaching out target market," says Noe Junio of Bayan Television ABS-CBN Foundation. "The real message is be met and for it to be received by the people, we need certain measurements—we need to know if our messages are effective, if it is successfully distributed to the desired audience."

Alaska Milk Corp. is one of two major players in the Philippine milk industry. Competing with an international company but consistently outstanding brand leadership in the liquid canned milk category, it has also gained ground in powdered milk.

Proper nutrition

"What we are actually achieving is selling proper nutrition to many. With this, Alaska fulfills its role in aid to nation building," says Arlo Belen Fernando, VP for marketing for Alaska Milk, winner of Agora Award for Marketing Management.

Let's A Pizza is Agora Awardee for Small Scale Entrepreneurship. The company has proven that it can satisfy the cravings of the Filipino palate while offering more value and savings.

Testament to this is its 84 franchised and 45 company-owned outlets, growing at a rate that cannot be matched by any other pizza company in the same market segment.

The factors behind the success of Let's a Pizza, according to Ros Ilgan Tan, president and co-founder of the popular Filipino pizza chain, "are entrepreneurial spirit, hands-on commitment in building the brand and keeping training innovations, financial stability and most of all, an established credibility and integrity in the business."

Bang Inasal is another brand that has captured the Filipino palate with a recipe that is uniquely ours. The famous grassing barbecue flavored chain in the Philippines is headed by Bonggo businessman Edgar Sia II.

Sia started with the desire to open a business that can give employment. And it was in the Manila street food, good quality inexpensive grilled chicken known as inasal, that he staked his claim. After some research and experiments on the barbecue marinade blend, he was able to come up with a taste that he thought would surely satisfy the real Pinoy taste of barbecue.

Learned curve

Star Cellular is 2009 Marketing Company of the Year, which took the country by storm when it came out with Call and Text Unlimited. The 5-year old company has done remarkable feats, with 18 million loyal subscribers and top-of-the-charts figures to prove.

With this, the network continues to significantly increase its coverage by investing more than $300 million every year for additional network infrastructure, but still maintaining the best value offerings to customers.

"We learned the curve of our competitors," says Ricky Pena, Star Cellular's VP for postpaid marketing and new business. "We learned that we have to offer the most cost-effective price. The power of unlimited is really big for Pinoys. And the bigger the community, the stronger the pull."

According to PMA President Mylene Abiva, the association "has brought excellent benchmark of success and individual winners who have made a difference and a huge contribution to the country's economic timeline through excellent marketing strategies. Despite threats of financial instability, global recession, along with natural disasters that took a huge toll, these entities have shown remarkable resilience."

This year's chair of the Board of Judges was Manolo Antonio.

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ALLIED BANK

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

VIGGO Mortensen

Viggo Mortensen launches fashion and film series

LUXURY MEN'S BRAND ALFRED DUNHILL announced its sponsorship of "Alfred Dunhill: Bafta & Life in Pictures," a series of exclusive events that will showcase some of the world's greatest film stars and makers talking about their life's work and their personal experiences in the film industry.

The series was launched recently with Bafta-nominated actor Viggo Mortensen, who spoke about his life in film at the event.

The "Alfred Dunhill Baftas & Life in Pictures" series celebrates the art of film and filmmaking. These special events enable audiences to hear, first-hand, from award-winning and nominated individuals who are major creative forces within today's film landscape.

To celebrate the launch of the partnership, Alfred Dunhill and Baftas have selected a series of exclusive photographs from Bafta's archive that celebrate Bafta's own life in pictures.

Alfred Dunhill and Baftas both strive to exude the values of excellence within their respective fields. By partnering with Baftas ... we are bringing together two British institutions creating events that offer a unique insight into, and celebrate the career of, some of the film industry's most talented figures," said Christopher Cobbe, CEO of Alfred Dunhill.

The "Alfred Dunhill Baftas A Life in Pictures" events will take place throughout 2009-2010.

Dunhill is exclusively distributed by Strawberry Specialists Inc. and is located at Rustan's Makati.

CHEF Jacqueline Amanda Beery with Viggo Mortensen

DINNER Hope, Chay Cajayon-Jr, Gabby Lopez, Mar Roxas and Raya Lopa

PEPPY Albert, Ruby Arsenio Fores, Liz Velasco and Carla Yango

MCA Santo Domingo, Jane Pilar Raga, Greg Reyes, Margarita Fores and Glenda Velasco

THE BRIDE. Tes Sanchez, Margarita Fores and her son Antonio

GLOWING groom Mar Roxas with his gorgeous bride, Korina Sanchez

MAS Roxas, Cecile Miro, Korina Sanchez and Judy Roxas

MERCEDES Fores, Lorenzo Fores and Pia Dyola

Noynoy Aquino goes table-hopping at Mar and Korina's wedding reception

THE WEDDING OF THE YEAR was even more than everyone expected it to be. It was a wedding made for a princess and her dashing prince.

The solemnity, elegance of décor at Sto. Domingo Church and wedding events of the choir mesmerized the invitees. Mere so, when the absolutely radiant, gorgeous bride, ABS-CBN's immaculately TV commentator Korina Sanchez walked down the aisle to be with her prince charming, Sen. Noynoy Aquino.

Korina's much talked about wedding gown with a long embroidered veil was created by the genius of fashion, Rajo Albert, no less, pulongpong.

The love was felt by everyone at the wedding ceremony.

The church courtyard was the venue for the after-wedding reception while the grand finale was held at the museum/ library na Pinti in Gallon, where a dinner reception was held for the entire wedding entourage, families of both sides and super friends of Mar and Korina.

Here, it was time to let loose and have an awesome fun. A super relaxed way to celebrate the couple's love story after almost half a day of tension and exhaustion.

No wonder after the ceremony, well garnered dinner, which consisted of eight choices, including the popular lechon Frida Cinco, I were back for three (yes, three) more servings of callos, which I thought was the recipe of Tes Sanchez Antonio), mother of Judy, Baby and George "Nono," who has some of the best recipes you can imagine, pulongpong.

I just had to thank Margarita Fores, who prepared the menu for the night. Well, it

SWEET KISS. Even the bride offers her groom a taste of the yummy cake.

BARANGAY Dinggoy: Andy Pasco, Nino Lopa, Mhon Cajayon, Jason Perlyon, Lisa and Noel Bautista, Bobby Arsenio, Rene Roxas, Lhoto Cajayon and Ai Yango

KORINA Sanchez and Vicana Fores

RENE Roxas and Maurice Arsenio

RAQUEL Agudo, Dang Cardin-Palanca and Chit Quiambao

NEW LYWEDS also ate delicious wedding cake by Maria C. Yulo.

TASK Garcia, Joe Bride, Elsy Antonino and Rose Bonifranco

CORINA Mallari, Susie Quirici, Marvin Calayagan Yulo, Ditse Khonti, Vivian Arsenio. Standing: Jessie R. Noynoy Aquino, Christine Ferreira and Ana Bolivar-Sanchez

REUNION Fores, George "Nono" Arsenio and Cesar Gabaldon

BLOOD Fores Laguna, Cristina Garcia, Helen Fores, Bea Pons, Monique Bautista Diaz, Paul Fores and Elsy Antonino. Seated: Helen Soarez and Michelle Andrade

WE ARE family. Raul Fores, Baby Fores, Judy Roxas, Pia Ojeda, Ana Ojeda, Lorenzo Fores, Erica Monasa and Margarita Fores. Standing: Paolo Zaldariaga, Luis Ojeda, Joey Dominia, Ria Ojeda, Renato Fores, Bimbo Laguarda, Alfonso Fores and Gio Ojeda

BUNCH Abad, Chi Cinoloa, Margarita Delgado, Piki Lopez, Coco and Cory Portuma, and Gigi and Ging Montinola

How Lizanne Uychaco interprets the circle of life

Her paintings are not just decorative, they are also feng shui-inspired

By Glenna Gaston
Contributor

"LIVE WITH WHAT YOU LOVE so it can keep coming back to you."

I remember her telling me this when once I asked her why she kept on her growing collection of coins. She all knew deep-rooted attachments to many things in our lives.

In Lizanne Uychaco's case, it began with an old coin given by a Chinese monk when she was less years old. Chinese coins are symbols of wealth and prosperity. They are used as charms for good health and luck. For a fine-year-old, the coin held the purest promise of safety against the evil eye and deliverance from a childhood ailment, so much so that Lizanne kept and treasured it, wearing it as a pendant to this day.

Her present collection of coins is the result of her desire to keep this positive experience in her life. Friends who know about her collection have added to it over the years as gifts and tokens of friendship, gratitude and love. The coins accumulated their monetary value and became magical talismans invested with all good intentions and positive energy. Eventually, they found their way into Lizanne's paintings. Some of these artworks found their way into Shoshi homes. It became a cycle, following a pattern of continuity.

Lizanne's artmaking vocabulary straddles both the serious and the contemporary. The sources of her works lies in the subconscious realm, in shapes and images she remembers. The square in the center of a circle represents the energy of the earth while the circle represents heaven. This powerful union of heaven and earth establishes the cosmic "Circle of Life," signifying balance and harmony in our lives.

Balance and harmony in the palm of a hand found a wider stage when Lizanne chose to depict this universal cycle of change in all of her paintings.

Using water-based oils and acrylic, the paintings are richly textured with subtle brush- and palette knife strokes. Her elements/ shapes of colors is not just for aesthetics' sake but they (the colors) make up an integral part of the paintings' essence, the vibrant and good-for-our-souls, nurturing and calming emerald greens, elegantly darkened gold and silver flakes and patterned bright orange, berry red, gold and green to name a few intensely powerful and auspicious motifs and symbols in all her paintings. The dragon, a mythical and mythological being with a long and rich history spoke several appearances in the phoenix, koi and turtle.

"Magnetic Force" is verdigris and gold leaf abstract with its own energy and takes a life of its own, interacting, one at a time with each viewer that comes upon it. It requires, invites contemplation and stimulates speculation. And yet comprehensively, it is an abstract, with just the correct circle in it square.

Chinese pictograms

Recently in striking her subject matter and foundation more fluid, and to allow changes, Lizanne started using ancient Chinese pictograms to form complex forms and symbolic spaces.

"Chinese calligraphy has evolved. Inevitably it gained complexity in its efforts to become simplified. The early pictograms were easier to understand, appreciate and remember. Then were effective means of early communication. Their translation in to symbols and reflect the customs, beliefs and mood of the era in which they were formed and used. I find them interesting to work with and responsible to interpret visually in a contemporary way," the artist says.

The premise of Lizanne's creations is based on the "art of placement" of living and lifesaving in our lives free to touch to do as what we surround ourselves with. Our homes and surroundings have a direct impact on us. Guided by this philosophy, her paintings are not just decorative, they are sensitively installed where they can enhance good energy to flow in to your life.

It is also at this same spirit that Lizanne has gone into jewelry-making. In her latest exhibit she shows paintings and a line of elegant jewelry that echoes and mirrors painting aesthetic. They show commonalities aspects, the "Circle of Life" becomes more pronounced in the three dimensions of elastic bracelets, earrings, necklaces and bracelets in gold, lost-wood, jade and mother of pearl. The materials examine the five basic elements depicting change and continuity: Earth, metal, fire, wood and water.

Closely her creative energies are constantly evolving. Her works focus on growth as viewed on the wall as paintings revised so to engage change and continuity to our search for harmony.

Lizanne Uychaco's "Simply Auspicious" exhibit of paintings and jewelry is ongoing at the Art Elements Gallery in Power Mall, Bacolod, Ilihan.

THE BRILLIANT phrases in the "Symbol of Harmony."

VIVID hues of blues and greens bearing riches in "Hour of Wealth" calligraphy

LIZANNE Uychaco, the Ilonggo artist, sang that art is in the essence

"WEALTH Inspiration," a splendid mix of shadow and deep earthy colors

CEREMONIAL ribbon cutting by Liz Bermillo, editor in chief of Corona Magazine; (2nd) Adelaida, marketing director, Panorama Duty Inspirit; Andi Lilia Bacolod with Lizanne Uychaco

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7th heaven for the nation

The morning everybody wore 'Pacquiao'

AT WHITE SPACE IN MAKATI: Tomo, Makati, last Nov. 15, the tradeoff was palpable as the audiences watched via satellite Manny Pacquiao and Miguel Cotto exchanging blows.

When the referee stopped the fight some 54 minutes into the last round and declared Pacquiao the winner by TKO, the elation was genuine and infectious.

The Philippines had won again. Money had won. Its seventh world title.

Mabuhay!

Jessi J. Epperson

It was wonderful to see many familiar faces in the crowd that Sunday morning, standing shoulder to shoulder in a unified show of support for the Philippines' pride (which for a pinoy is loosing money).

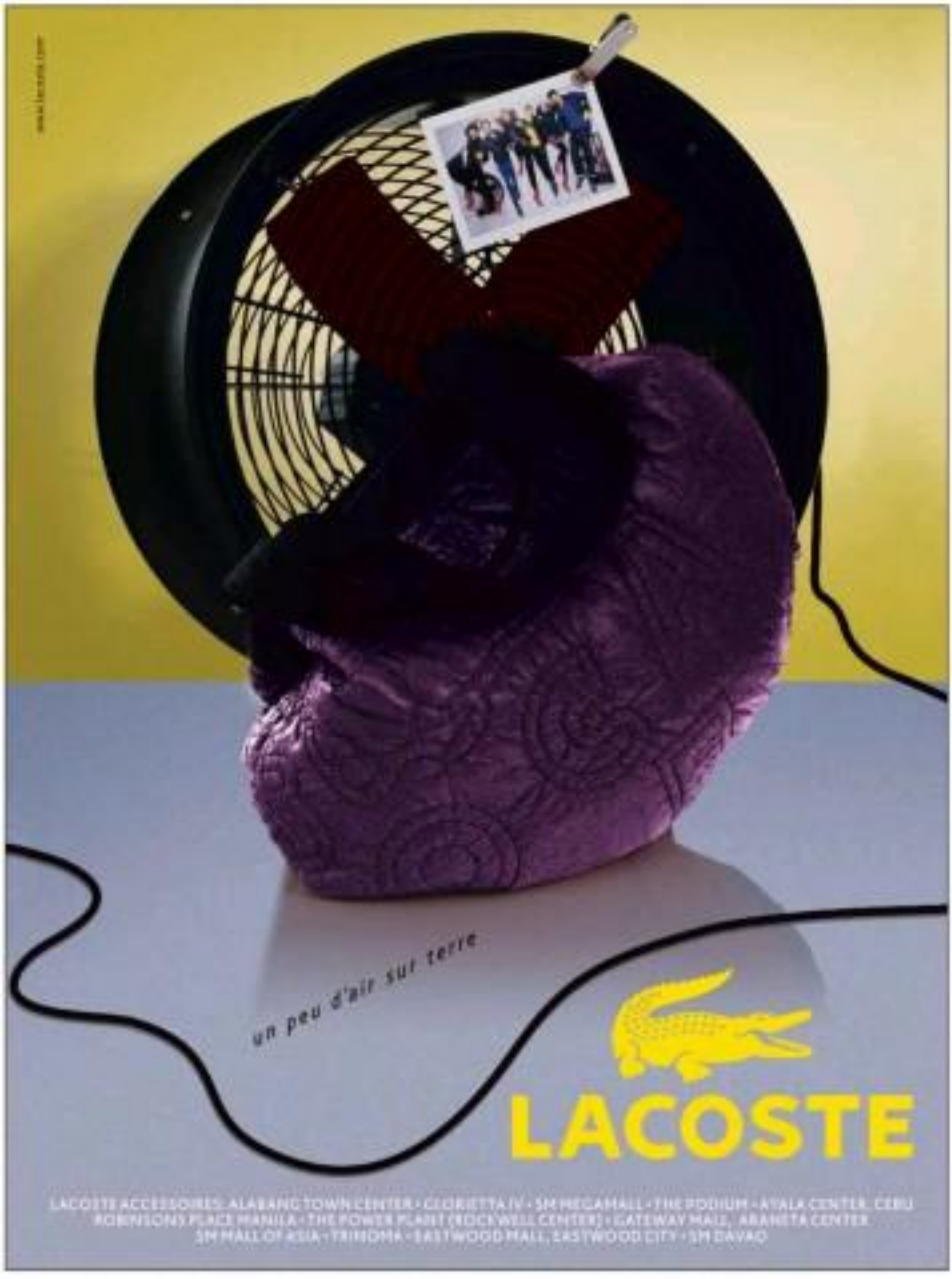
Celebrities, athletes, and sports aficionados converged at the White Space where Nike Philippines was sponsoring a free viewing of the Pacquiao-Cotto spar-off.

Team Pacquiao dons were

MARC Nelson and Jaime Nalbus

ABBIE Thompson

Mark Mejia



ROCK the horse

TIGHT jeans, check plaid shirt, check

Sam Milby goes wild and romantic

FILIPINO-AMERICAN actor, model and recording artist Sam Milby joins Folded & Hung with the brand's 2009 Holiday Collection.

Sam grew up in Troy, Ohio. He came to the Philippines for a vacation in 2005 and joined a reality TV show. He not only became a celebrity and heartthrob after the show.

Shy but pleasant, Sam has won fans for his good looks and talent for singing and acting.

As the latest addition to the brand's distinctive list of endorsers, Sam gives the men's collection that sexy sophistication and manly appeal.

The new collection emphasizes the old made new, classy but casual, lightweight and layered with clean cuts. It is versatile clothing for the office and beyond.

The concept of the shoot is English aristocracy, romantic and enchanting just like English romance novels. A gorgeous young aristocrat visiting the horses in the stables is dressed casually in black skinny jeans over mid-calf-length low-rise jeans that show off the lean and sexy build of the Hunk.

It's the classic wardrobe, boasting staple items successfully cracker the kind of man who gets dressed in the blink of an eye but always looks gorgeous without effort.

The color palette for men is dominated by blacks, whites and grays that lean toward dark tones. The fit is slim and the overall look is clean and fresh. There are prominent boy inspired patterns and military title across the chest. On frontdress and sleeves are striking accents and touches of royal blue and maroon.

Shirt material is made of high-density cotton that is tightly knitted. Double-chest pockets and thin collars and pinches are military signatures of the collection.

Sleek jeans models and drawstring boy pockets on cuts are fresh and youthful features for a collection that is distinctively dark and elegant.

Pants are made of textured twill, with a touch of stretch for comfort and style. Waistbands and pocket details subtly, scoop and slash pockets with eye candy buttons are a fashion statement. Color tones are kept conservative with grays, blacks and a few browns.

Living Art

"To give, to create is the only way to succeed." - Dany Sanz

The most extraordinary aspect of French cosmetics brand MAKE UP FOR EVER is its true commitment to the art and craft of make up. Its inception in 1984 was brought about by founder Dany Sanz's desire to create works of art on what she calls "the most beautiful canvas", the human face and body. Between continuous technological innovation and infinite color development, the MAKE UP FOR EVER ranges meet the real needs of professional make up artists. The choice of colors and textures allows for full personal expression, from simple day make up to the most extravagant creations. The high standards of professional artists in terms of quality ingredients and perfect application serves as the brand's benchmark in its constant development of products.

It was therefore the inevitable choice of sisters Diana Alabio-Lorenzo and Mei Alabio-Aventajas to make Face and Body Painting the focus of MAKE UP FOR EVER's 20th year anniversary in the Philippines. Diana heads the company, Strix One Commercial Corporation, the brand's exclusive distributor in the country, while Mei, an artist and a painter, heads the MAKE UP FOR EVER Pro Team. According to Diana, face and body painting is an ancient art form that has been popularized by Dany Sanz and MAKE UP FOR EVER in Paris in the 1980's. She states, "This truly remarkable brand not only allows but also inspires artists to create stunningly beautiful faces and exceptionally artistic works. Its array of products are vast and versatile — its quality, the highest standard."

Mei adds that Face and Body Painting is an intrinsic part of the brand's artistic heritage and that she would like to share this fascinating French tradition with fellow Filipinos. The face & body painting runway show, organized by Fabric's Casey Mono and presented at Ambar Ultra Lounge at Fort Bonifacio Global City, was the first-ever show of its kind in the country.

Selena Gomez's sultry and elegant "Fearless Queen"

Dominique with the MAKE UP FOR EVER Pro Team

MAKE UP FOR EVER Creative Director Mei Alabio-Aventajas, Director for Publicity & Press Relations Celine Gabriel, Managing Director Diana Alabio-Lorenzo, & Marketing Manager Donna Viola-Andrada

Joyce Pring's "Empress of the Wild", "Crown's Glory" by Yuki Dandan, "Fleurish" by Julie Cho

The show was conceptualized by MAKE UP FOR EVER PRO Artist Selenn Hemanes, who studied both beauty and artistic make up at the Make Up For Ever Academy in Paris. Selenn and the MAKE UP FOR EVER Pro team executed the show with nature as their timely inspiration. The destructive act exhibit sweet spontaneity in an explosion of color, texture, and motion depicting a variety of scenes from the ocean, the forests, the jungles, and the sky.

7th heaven . . .

From page B1

de rigueur that morning. They stood out in the white interiors of the place: from the 2007 shirt showing a blood stained "Durosan" to the more recent bel-printed 2009 RP Team Pumpino Eagle Tee—each a testament to clubbing memories in Pumpino's career.

The large turnout at White Space was only one among what I imagine was a multitude of gatherings across the globe, packed with supporters cheering the Pumpino Champion. And much to the power that Pumpino wields.

What Mike has proudly labeled his 'true fire 36' spirit, marked by his passion and determination to succeed, has brought him seven world titles in seven different weight classes, proving that the Filipino can excel in the international sporting arena. And the pride that his success brings our nation is an invisible ribbon linking Filipinos together wherever they are found across the globe.

"More than the inspiration that he is to athletes everywhere, he is a symbol to us Filipinos that we can succeed in our passions," said Mike Philippines marketing manager Miss Dichajoy.

We're proud of you, Manny! This is your seventh unprecedented win. And you have made the lucky number the mark of a true champion.

Follow me on twitter.com/jetsuppercut or visit www.jetsuppercut.com.

GGUUY ladies Mika Mamaclay, Leah Hsieng and Carla Jimenez

KEEPA Chavez

DAVE Dalupa and coach Larry Albano

PHOTOGRAPHER Tom Epperson keeps himself updated with a blow-by-blow report of the Pacman-Cotto bout.

BANJO and Sarah Hsieh-Aikawa

MAE DIOHUPA and Raoul Reinoso

JASON Fernandez of Rivermaya

Exclusive enclave for hotshots

THE HUB EXECUTIVE LOUNGE OPENS in a new experience for CBDs, brings business guests, leisure travelers and young getting professionals.

Located at 1900 Bishop St., Bishop, Manila, the Hub offers a private enclave comparable to those found in cosmopolitan cities like New York, London, Paris and Shanghai. It seeks to focus on the needs of today's demand out executives and explore ways to help them work, relax better and enjoy their off time.

The Hub has well-appointed furnishings. Guests can also choose to join "The Hub's Members Club" for even more exclusivity and a wide range of additional services and privileges.

Neutral wall colors and furnishings exhibit a sleek, sophisticated look for the interior. Clean lines and iconic highlight the level center of the main ground floor—the illuminated lounge areas with ceiling, wall, stairs and tables draped in velvet.

A well-stocked bar with premium wines and liquor can be spotted in a cozy nook. Large mirrors reflect the details of the seating area and stage. An elevated ramp is designed for intimate shows or presentations.

The spacious ground floor is for guests who want to engage with clients, colleagues or friends over drinks. Visitors can also relax and enjoy live musical and dance performances each week. During the opening of the executive lounge, designer Frederick Mia showcased his fashion collections.

Among the guests who have been spotted at the newly opened exclusive haunt are international boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and wife Jinkee, businessmen and numerous celebrities.

The HUB also features meeting and function rooms in the second floor with business facilities and e-mail/Internet capabilities. Guests may arrange meetings with customized food and cocktail/wine selections.

CURTIS Chang and Manny Pacquiao

JINKEE Pacquiao and Mali Perilla

HANNY Magleson, general manager of The Hub Executive Lounge, and Jenel Jensen

Presents Perfect at SM

Get creative with your Christmas gift wrapping to make presents extra special

Make your Christmas gift stand out in these pretty striped boxes

A simple yet beautiful way to wrap your gift: encase it in tar tan with a band of wrapping paper and twine

Festive Gift Boxes from the Stationery Section Celebrate the Art of Gift Giving

Perfect for Christmas gifts: gold box sealed with a complementing gold rope

Gift boxes in festive or lively Christmas finish

The joy of unwrapping presents is something that we will never outgrow. This Christmas, bring a big smile to your loved ones' faces with special gifts packaged in festive boxes from SM.

There are whimsical striped gift boxes, elegantly ribboned ones, and fancy metallic pieces in all sizes and shapes to fit almost any present. Wrapped with a ribbon or twine, these fancy boxes celebrate the art of gift giving.

The gift box collection, along with holiday themed wrapping paper, gift bags, ribbons, tags, and more, is available at the Stationery Sections of all SM Department Stores.

Check out SM's elegant and festive gift boxes at the Stationery Section

Find a variety of gift boxes in different sizes to send gifts at SM's Stationery Section

Gifts of Learning, Art, and Fun From SM

This giant crayon holds a great assortment of coloring materials and also doubles up as a catchall

Treasure hall two-pitting together the Hawaii Mosaics puzzle

Inspire your child to explore the world with this Learning Library bag

Make learning fun for the kids with these Gold Star Workbooks. These come with gold stars, sticker badges and a CD for playing educational games!

This Christmas, give your kids gifts of learning, art, and fun from SM. Bring out their creative side with art and coloring materials like crayons, markers, and modeling clay sets. They will be delighted to spend hours drawing, coloring, and playing with clay in these wonderfully packed gift sets.

Encourage them to express their thoughts in notebooks where they can jot down ideas and create some doodling fun, journals where they can record their childhood memories and stationery sets, where they can write heartfelt notes and letters to friends.

Inspire little ones to sharpen their minds while having fun with books for kids, calculators and encyclopedias, books, bi-mesh workbooks, puzzles, and other educational games.

These gift ideas are available at the Stationery and Supplies section of all SM Department Stores.

Modeling clay and crayons in a festive Christmas box

Check out the color-fun, vibrant designs of the stationery set at SM's Stationery and Supplies section. Set includes notepad, notebook, cards and a gift box

Let the kids' arts explore their creativity with this 24-piece colored marker set

1000-piece Enchanted Tales puzzle for your little princess

Kids can write in style with this journal and pen set

Boys will have endless hours of fun with this Justice League Unlimited puzzle

Give the gift of knowledge with the Time for Kids 2010 Almanac. It's packed with facts, stats, news and loads of other information from around the world

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

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Isabel Rocas,
Backstage Pass

How to be a beauty knockout on holidays

No. 1 hair mistake—the bigger and bolder, the better

WHEN THE HOLIDAY season rolls along, you have to ramp everything up to a bigger scale: Bigger parties, bigger celebrations. But does that apply to hair, too?

The common one hair mistake women make during the holidays is they often think the bolder—the bigger and bolder, the better. Most often, this type of thinking leads to regret and exclamations of "What was I thinking?"

The sparkle and shimmer of the season can inspire any women to have fun with her hairstyle, before you do anything drastic, see a stylist before your schedule gets hectic.

Here are tips to get the holiday style you want.

- Holidays can be hectic, so book an appointment in advance.
- Think of where you are go-

HOW TO GO TO:

JOEY Mead

Instant Citi Rewards at The North Face

By Irene C. Perez

LOSE TO TRAVEL? IF YOU'RE THE TYPE who can't stay still indoors, is always active and spontaneous, you need to have a gear that could match your living adventurous.

Go hardcore with The North Face. It offers backpacks, slings, belts, and a range of accessories like water jugs and socks perfect for all your outdoor needs. No need to worry about sudden drizzles, dirt or damages. The North Face items are sturdy, water-repellent and light-weight.

The North Face gears are an investment and enables you to do all new dreams destination to another from your travel checklist. And its now even more affordable to Citibank's more than one million cardholders in the country.

Use your Citi Gold Visa, Citi Gold MasterCard, and Citi Platinum Visa cards to get 10 percent off from any item in The North Face.

On top of this generous discount, the limited Citi Rewards program lets you pay up to 50 percent of your total purchase using Citi Rewards Points. What's more, the remaining half which you charge to your Citi card, will earn you more Rewards Points!

What's more, the other half which you will pay for using your Citi card, will earn you more Rewards Points!

Cardholders can also conveniently use these rewards points as commins' says Ramon Jaime del Rosario, Vice President for Citibank's Cards Business.

There's how the conversion goes. Every P50 purchases using your Citi card* earns you one Rewards point. When you use your Rewards Points to pay for your purchases at The North Face and other limited Citi Rewards accredited merchants, every 100 Rewards points is equal to P1. The more you use your card, the more points you get, the more items you could buy using the Points.

"The best thing about this limited Citi Rewards promotion is you can choose any item from our stores in Glorietta and Shangri-La Plaza Mall," says Dinah A. Lim, Assistant Vice President for Brand Management of Primer Group of Companies, local distributor of The North Face.

"You could earn up Rewards Points for a longer time you've been wanting. There are no

All-weather jackets and other clothing apparels that are both functional and fashionable are available in some or all types of climates

A range of outdoors accessories such as water jugs, socks, caps are also available

Enjoy 15% off when shopping at The North Face with your Citi Card. Plus, you can pay using Rewards Points for as much as 50% of your total bill

Dinah A. Lim, AVP for Brand Management of Primer Group of Companies (parent company of The North Face) and Ramon Jaime del Rosario, Vice President for Citibank's Cards Business

The North Face offers durable and stylish bags that are not only for outdoor activities but can also be used for travelling and for carrying laptops

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Gear up for the holidays, get a makeover

Give those summer streaks and shimmer powder a break and go for big curls, smooth matte skin, smoky eyes and deep-red lips, says hair stylist Jing Monis

By Irene C. Perez

WONDER HOW JUDY ANN SANTOS AND Sarah Geronimo achieved that classy glam? Check out their hair. They have traded their signature flat, long hair to soft, layered, oh-so-sexy curls. With the right cut and color, you can also have your own hair makeovers.

"It's the holidays, sipot big waves, luscious long and layered," says hair stylist Jing Monis of the newly opened Jing Monis Salon (tel. 8936808, 0484772; www.jingmonis.com). "Deep colors are in hot now—deep red, purple, chocolate brown and jet black."

So before December kicks in, make sure to have that light, highlighted hair fixed. It would take time for your hair color to "settle" or have it done now. Summer streaks are in now; have your hair colored darker.

"It all depends on the texture and condition of the hair," Monis says. "The first thing we do is we sit with our clients for consultation before we do anything, for them to understand their hair condition."

SEXY wave on Rochelle de Leon

LONG and layered 'do on Mylene Dizon

PULLED-BACK and polished hair on Sarah Geronimo

JUDY Ann Santos and hair stylist Jing Monis at the Jing Monis Salon launch in Makati

Sexy eyes, sexier lips

For makeup, Monis suggests to give up shine and go matte.

"Matte makeup is all the rage now, which works well if you have well-polished skin."

For your endless Christmas parties and New Year bashes, Monis dares you to let go of your inhibitions, power suit lapel lips and go vampy with smoky eyes and dark red lips, all in shine-free mattes.

How about for men? Show a daw in all ways a nice accessory. Jaw should they wear their hair?

"It's makeman, either you go short, say military cut but with long bangs or middle-length messed-up, something-happened-last-night hair," he says.

Of course, it is best to find the right stylist to guide you through your holiday makeover, from getting the right cut, shade and highlights (neutral!), foundation and lipstick that matches your skin tone—that's where Jing Monis' experience and expertise take over.

And how could his celebrity clients who have been with him over the years go wrong? Mylene Dizon, Willnia Bonnet, Agot Isidro, Tweeite de Leon, Joey Mead, Ivana Miraglia, Mandy de la Hoya, Ivanna, Vicky Herrera, Bubbo Bellis, Maria Severa, Paolo Paraiso and designer Raju Lazaro are among his loyal patrons.

"I base my cut according to the shape of their head, lifestyle and personality of the client," Monis says. "I go to school abroad for training once a year so every other year to keep myself updated. When I travel, I observe what's happening, what's new in hair trends. I also go through fashion websites for fresh ideas, and read tons of fashion magazines.

"I'm very professional with my work and I was able to build a good friendly relationship with them over the years."

His works have been featured in Hong Kong Tatler and Elle magazines, as well as a number of local magazines.

SHORT and clean cut with long bangs on Brazilian-Japanese model Daniel Matsunaga

Global inspiration

Monis knew he'd be in the beauty biz since he was in high school, when he started fixing his sister for her prom and Santa Cruzan.

From working as an assistant in a small salon, Monis was able to work his way up and got jobs in Jacques Dessange in New York, L'Oreal Paris, The Paradise Group Academy in New York, Toni & Guy Salon in Sydney, Australia, and Singapore, and Le Salon Orient in Hong Kong.

And he shares the knowledge he gained from these global beauty houses to his stylists in the Jing Monis Salon. It used to be called Propaganda, a partnership between Monis and friends Juan Jarin III, Cristine del Valle, Marlon Rivera and Jay Lozada. The team agreed to rebrand Propaganda, give Monis full creative and operational control, and call it the Jing Monis Salon.

The 120-sq m salon with modern mediterranean interiors in Greenbelt 1, Makati is ready to give a new look to those who are tired of their usual 'do. And Monis assures you you'll get your peso's worth.

"Our prices are reasonable, especially because we are a boutique salon. Like Schwarzkopf, I make sure the staff is trained in the latest style and techniques."

Your hair could make or break your wardrobe. Load could make you glamour, incl, so book an appointment and make your holiday hair-weak for you.

How to be a beauty . . .

From page 11

greeting with your hair before you make a change. Do you want to grow it long or go short? Your stylist can help you get the look you want.

+ Don't consider a hairstyle you wouldn't be able to recreate at home. Watch your stylist at work. Take note of the steps he or she takes and the products they use.

+ Bring magazine images or photos that show the feel you want.

+ Clarify! Sometimes what is long to you might not be long to your stylist.

+ Be flexible and let your stylist interpret the images you select. Work with your stylist to find a look that works with your features and lifestyle.

4 women's salons

When in doubt, seek advice. I asked four women who are always in the limelight and with schedules that necessitate planning ahead. They invariably have their trusted salons that give them luxurious holiday looks.

"I love getting my haircut and color at Louis Philip Koo Salon. The colors always suits my skin tone and makes my hair shiny. Louis does a great job at hair cutting. Not only does it last a long time but it's also got that natural essence and I love it!"—Krissa Ranillo, actress

"I go to Propaganda by Jing Monis. I like the cut and color, and the hair treatments. Oh, and the WIFI is an added plus!"—Judy Ann Santos, actress

"I always have my cut and color done at Stephanie Salon, Rockwell. Coset Ramos always does a great job changing my look."—Pharmaceutical media, TV host

"I'm delighted that The Jing Monis salon is finally up and running. The timeless touch Jing's personality which is apparent in his creations. Jing is always up-to-date with current trends inspired from his travels and deep knowledge of beauty. Here he sculpts a difference for each face he touches. I'm also elated with his support of using more organic products like rosemary to incorporate with his products. He is a master beauty stylist."—Joey Mead, international model

Acne eliminators for pregnant women

THOSE WHO MOST NEED A GENTLER SKIN care product have no means of getting it because either it doesn't exist yet or it's there, it is only available abroad or is prohibited by some medical condition.

My skin care supplies have sent me from hard-to-find products for specific needs.

Acne eliminators for pregnant women is perhaps the biggest breakthrough in skin care, as pregnant women are prone to the worst acne breakouts.

The Vitamin A and salicylic acid found in most effective acne medications are linked to birth defects so moms are cautioned against taking a formula with those ingredients.

Chari Cabral, owner of Jasmine Manila, presented me with P2F or Face to Face, which are skin care capsules from the Netherlands that boost healthy skin cells within. They protect acne and keep skin clean, soft and smooth.

The best part is that P2F doesn't contain Vitamin A so it is safe for pregnant women.

Those who are lactose intolerant may take this without feeling discomfort as well. The effective ingredient is Pronvesin, a Lactoferrin preparation from milk protein.

Check out www.P2F4U.com for more information.

For the longest time the only known anti-acne capsule was Accutane, which was sought to find in Manila. At the US, it was available via prescription from a dermatologist with a United States license. It was also very expensive.

Erick Arreglado, my Chamisheane capsule supplier, presented me Lactobiotic capsules.

Active ingredients are Lactobiotic, which is clinically proven to reduce blemishes and redness associated with bad skin; Linusitide, which is extracted from Flax and helps deal with hormonal imbalance that causes the skin to break out, look dull and prevents excess oil; and Zinc Gluconate, which neutralizes testosterone which leads to acne breakouts.

A single capsule has ascinic extract, and has flammatory and antioxidant properties.

A bruise

MJ, aka Idella, creator of Mandelle and Mak-Idell at private exhibitions which are parade-on skin. This is a godsend for those who find that Glycolic acid stings too much or for those who don't like aggressive peeling but have a problem with pigmentation.

This has been my favorite as it has actually diminished some stubborn brown spots on my face. The cost have been light-headed and the big cans have helped me up to more manageable dry pieces. My pores look smaller, no acne breakouts at all, whiteheads and blackheads have been reduced as well.

But Hydra contains a bit of Vitamin A, so those trying to conceive or are pregnant have to stop using it.

There are just two easy steps to the morning and three easy ones at night. I advise using an SPF 30 during the day as your third step and a mattifier like OC Right above that for step four, if you do not like the greasy feel.

There's no obvious packaging so you can go about your daily routine without redness.

MAKEOVER 911
Kinoy Salas

Expensive

Would you pay P50,500 for skin care?

That is how much La Prairie's Cellular Cream Platinum Rare costs.

What is in it to warrant such a price tag? It contains nano-sized platinum particles which help maintain the skin's electrical balance; melanins for energy flow; keratin for strengthening; ionol crystals that transport antioxidants; fluorescent for anti-inflammatory and lightening; and red algae oil (ahh more for soothing and moisturizing).

I know of several Bruises Bickis collectors who would not think twice about buying it if it were proven effective and for the mere cheap of saying that nobody else uses the same thing. Who is it for, really? Women with very dry, dull, dehydrated skin who want 24 hours of deep moisture. Its silvery cast from the actual platinum is not skin with a glow to the complexion, and you wake up the next day looking rested. It's exclusively available at Rustans.

Those interested in P2F, MJ, and OC Right should call 5722500 to find the doctor nearest you that distributes them. Rustans price them differently.

MARINA Barrigaya in a gown by Randy Ortiz

POND'S assistant brand manager Simone Ferrer, senior brand manager Jacqui Yuengtian, show director Raymond Villanueva and ambassador Rissa Hontiveros

FILIPINOS' West sensation producer Jem Espino and Pond's ambassador Rissa Hontiveros

IDOL'S Head is a genius by Paco Quiñones

POND'S assistant brand manager Simone Ferrer, senior brand manager Jacqui Yuengtian and Unilever's marketing manager for skin Paul Gatmaitan

JEANNE Hamelin a gown by Marc Racoy

Ageless beauty on display

BEAUTY BRAND POND'S RECENTLY joined the Philippine Fashion Week to bring the Pond's Red Dress Collection.

For the first time ever, Pond's graced the runway at the Mall of Asia Arena with gowns designed by the country's premier designers. The theme was "Beauty At Any Age" incorporated in red couture, the main hue of Pond's brand through and through—Pond's Age Miracle.

Hosted by Pond's ambassadors and beauty expert Kris Montecarlo, the show gathered masters of varying ages.

"Exquisite Style" offered designs by Randy Ortiz, Edgar San Diego, Jonjon Cambe, Richard Papa, Jesus Jimenez, Simon Atrio Vazquez and Eric Delos Santos, modeled by ageless beauties such as Marina Benipayo, Bodette Wenkin, Shelbie Ardinal, Joyce Pilarski, Singbing Pabalan, Egin Ilan Bedin and Patty Britta.

Camille Muñoz, Joanne Bicaldo, Rissa Hontiveros, Mai Kanstrup, Chrissel Agrado, Shalee Nelmes, Joey Mead, Mae Reyes and Abby Arenas showcased "Effortless Chic" in couture created by seasoned designers Avel Saavedra, Jojie Lloren, Rhett Eala, Debbie Co, Aladin Cecilio, Michiko Lachica, Pary Quiñones, Tina Ermita and Edwin Up.

"Entertaining Radiance" had designers Oseina Sanz, Ivarluski Aseina, Joey Samson, Louis Claparols, Sunaliza Arevalo, Uggy Sarabia, Michiko Aseo, Jorge Pelmo, Joel Escobar, Bo Gerona, Chris Diaz, Alex Pigao, Marco Raney and Lorenzo Cua, along with their muse Divine Lee, Ria Sudrini, Kelly Misa, Samarah Lewis, Hazel Santos, Shaie G, Justine Estebanez, Elvis Andrus, Lopez, Kaelyn Hogan, Michelle Pamintuguin, Emerald, Christine Bayot and Sarah Meier.

"Captivating Innocence" presented designs by Jerome Lorico, Happy Andrada, Jake Reyes, Cinge Cayabyab, Arnold Galang, Sola Ytarza, Odelot Siriapan, Rod Bisud, Wejay Florcruz, Jerome Ang and Delby Ringuia. Their creations were worn by teenage models Justine San Miguel, Stefanie Rodrigo, Jana Dee, Michael, Theodore Chua, Jackie, Priscilla, Giselle Pacquet, Chai, Vicky Herrera and CJ Maldonyaina.

Hundreds of the show went to the Red Cross. Present during the event were Unilever CEO and Chairman Fernando Fernandez, Managing Director for Hair and Skincare Office Enrique Ibañez, Marketing Manager for Skin Ped Sy-Quimbang, Nestle Senior Brand Manager Jacqui Yuengtian, and Pond's Assistant Brand Manager Simeon Reyes.

Also there were SM's Harvey Sy and SM Mall of Asia's Assistant Vice President Stephanie Tan, G4S' Ada and Peonie and AM Hypermarket Jeff Tortaro, President SM Food Retail Group Herbert Sy, and SM's Management Trainees Florean Sy and Hendrik Sy; Bureau Production's Joey and Andie Espino with show director Raymond Villanueva, and celebrities such as Teresa Herrera, Ito Garcia, Tonichi Tecson, Ino Cabeza, Macky Mendoza, David Raediano and Isabel Oli.

SAMANTHA Lucia in Loom Clapaich

YECHI Herrera in Jemma Salayo-Ang

KATHY Hidalgo in Su Pamao

SARAH Meier in Ukraine Cua

EMERALD Villahermosa in Rassa Jimenez

JANNA Tee in Yibi Hipao

GANDANG PINAY

Sister Advise

Khristine B. Gabriel

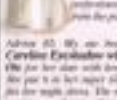
Being a mom can be tough sometimes! But, no matter how big small, serious or silly your dilemma may seem, you're never alone. Besides your mother and best friend, your older sister has been the closest and coolest person you've ever trusted. For years, secrets and stories you have both shared were left unspoken.

Young teens look up to their older sister's interest – what they do and what they spend. Both have always been considerable as ongoing respective suggestions. Older sisters, on the other hand, serve as role models for their younger siblings. They are always ready to help and advise their little sisters from difficulties of life ... especially the ups and downs of a teen age life.

So now, a great responsibility has been given to you as a sister. You, as a teen, must know the facts about beauty and personality development. Whether you are older or younger than your other siblings, it is important to answer their beauty dilemmas with poise and confidence. No wonder why young teens have a close relationship with their "ate". In fact, many young teens have been sending me emails to tell stories about their older sisters. They've been telling me their wedding ceremonies, shopping sprees and beauty shares with them. I am super interested and flattered to know the facts about the young teens because as a mother, it makes me understand the kids of today's generation.

Here are some suggestions I got from responsible, kind and loving sisters, who are ready to help their siblings with today's beauty Q&As:

Advise #1: I was not using any much make-up before so my skin imperfections were visible on my face. Until I saw **Caroline Pimple Concealer** *at the mall. I tried it and I love it! This wonderful skincare was with my name. I advised her to use it also during her best friend's birthday party so every all the imperfections like lines on her face. When she got home from the party, her friends were amazed. Cute!*



Advise #2: My sister borrowed my **Caroline Eyeshadow with Black-Ole** *for her date with her boyfriend. She put it in her upper lids but for her night dress. The make-up set carries a vibrant, shimmering eyeshadows and lustrous powder blend to get her date ready in a flash.*

Advise #3: My family went to Singapore for picnic. A supplier told me little secret, helped me more to prepare the food. There I suddenly noticed the oily face of my sister because of the long hours of travel. I advised her to use **Caroline Oil Control Face Powder** *to get a smooth and fresh feeling. It prevented a shiny coverage to keep her T-zone clear free.*

Asking questions from family don't ever mean inferiority to older sister. To ask some honest feelings and expanding the range of your knowledge. To see me not as a good help supporting your beauty queries. They are always available to help you with your concerns.

Aside all older girls, be a good sister to your siblings. Share them up every time they are having problem with beauty needs and accessories.

Share me your thoughts. Email me at kris_gabriel@yahoo.com

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SAMSUNG

Givenchy's new fragrance

Givenchy offers its new fragrance, Ange Ou Demon Le Secret. The floral fruity scent includes cranberry, green beckmans, Italian white lemon, white peony, sandrac jasmine, violet flower, blond wood, white musk and patchouli. Givenchy is exclusively distributed by Pioneer Marketing Corporation and is available at all Pioneer's Department Stores.

Vanity Basket

Red matte lipstick

Revlon Reds Red matte lipstick looks like bold velvet on the lips. It glides easily across lips without "cake-ness" and stays put for hours. Available in all major department stores and retail outlets nationwide.

Blemish balm cream

Miracle BB Blemish Balm Cream diminishes scars and provides excellent coverage as foundation and makeup base. The product is suitable for all skin types, especially those with sensitive, acne-prone, blemished or irritated skin.

Posh nails

Carolina Herrera Garnet, Diva and Posh Garnet is a creme-based lacquer with gold sparkles that has shades of Diva, a bright red muted hue. Posh is a light cocoa shade with Garnet as a top coat. Available in leading department stores, supermarkets, drugstores and health and beauty shops nationwide.

Whitening products

The Beta Essentials whitening soap and lotion are now infused with glutathione, Kojic acid and Ergosterin for more effective skin whitening. They also contain skin-like ceramides that seal in moisture.

Kenzo perfume

Flower by Kenzo Essentielle blends black pepper, pink berries, musk, vanilla, Rosa Damascena, jasmine tinctoria. Available in 30 ml, 50 ml and 75 ml. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and available in leading department stores.

Natural minerals foundation

Max Factor Natumineral Foundation uses calcium silicate, iron oxides and mica blend to provide beautiful coverage and natural glow. Available in shades of sand, natural, warm almond, golden, bronze and creamy ivory. The foundation has a soft touch that is 100% natural. The brush is longer and more tapered than regular powder foundation brushes. This allows the exact amount of powder to be delivered onto the skin. Available in all leading department stores.

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Waterproof to 200 m, steel case 39 mm
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LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Jewelry from the house of Brangelina

BRAD Pitt and Angelina Jolie's jewelry collection for Asprey

DAUGHTER SHOPPING SHAPES silver baby spoons for charity? They would only come from the House of Brangelina.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie join the slew of celebrities designing capsule collections for famous brands with the debut this week of their gold jewelry and silver gift accessories for high-end jewelers Asprey.

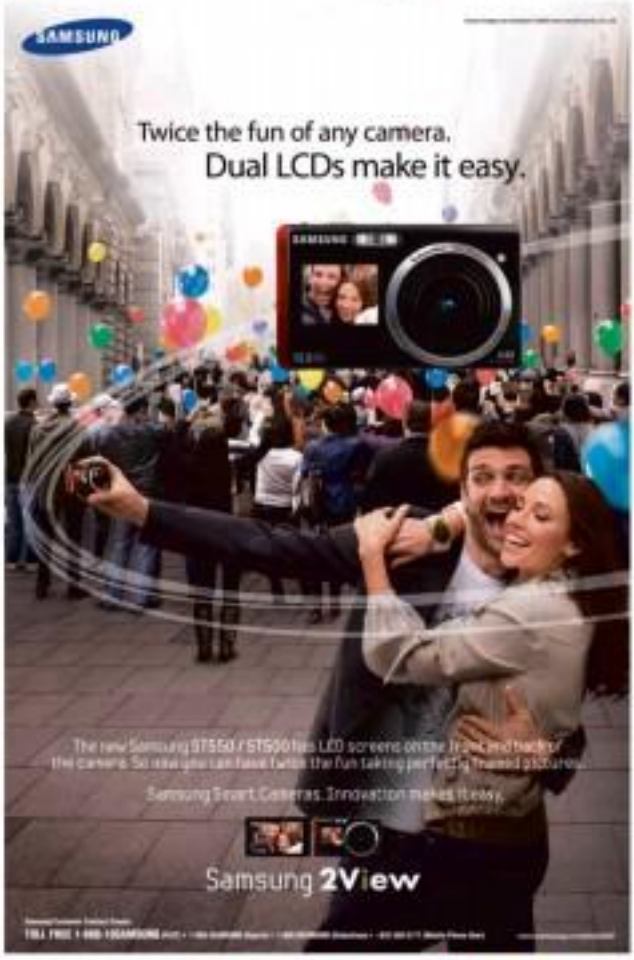
The couple, who've Jolie considers a tattoo—the wrist x snake-shaped ring while she was pregnant with daughter Shiloh—inspired the collection called The Promise, according to Women's Wear Daily. The actress was seen wearing one of the Asprey bracelets at the BAFTAs in February.

The high-end pieces include diamond and emerald pavé rings, bracelets, earrings, cuff links and dress studs, and will be sold in London, New York, Beverly Hills, Tokyo and Dubai beginning this week.

The Hollywood power couple, rumored to be in the works of adopting another child, this time from Ayutthaya, has designed silver baby gifts like an eggcup with a cooled snake at the base, a couch box and a picture frame. There are also gold and silver cuppers diamond pendants and rings.

Typical of the couple's humanitarian efforts, Asprey will donate the net proceeds of the collection's $525-silver baby spoon with a curved serpent-shaped handle to the Education Partnership for Children of Conflict, a charity co-founded by Jolie that raises funds for child victims of war, conflict and natural disasters.

Pitt, a passionate advocate of architecture, is, of course, no stranger to jewelry design. In the past, he has designed pieces for his Italian jeweler Damiani, including the engagement ring of ex-wife Jennifer Aniston and his and Aniston's wedding rings.



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Three hip Thai brands debut in RP

CPS Chaps, CC Double O and Lyn represent the cutting edge of Bangkok style

By Margo C. Enriquez
Lifestyle Reporter

RIPPED JEANS shredded from thigh to ankle; graphic T-shirts with attention-grabbing fonts; flowery floral-printed minis; and five-inch killer platform shoes in four textures.

Fashion made in Japan or Italy? No, the common if their make characterize them as Bangkok-made.

It's easy to convince Filipinos that Thailand is a country that evokes chic and internationally competitive garments, what with hordes of tourists going on shopping sprees in Bangkok. When Topics Corporation introduced three Thai brands from Amjad Group, many local shoppers were impressed with the mono-lacquering quality.

Established 32 years ago, Amjad Group has expanded its boutiques from distributing imported fashion and home brands to manufacturing its own labels.

Topics Corporation has acquired the franchise of Amjad Group's popular brands...the sassy and feminine line called CPS Chaps, the basic unisex CC Double O and fashion footwear Lyn.

Those might not be familiar to American or European brands, but Amjad's high profile marks an early triumph in a bid to elevate Thailand's reputation from a manufacturing base of foreign labels to a brand-name participant in the world scene.

Recent investments, mind, secure brand management for CC Double O, explains that, aside from fabrics sourced locally and from Japan and Italy, Amjad always has to availed superior-quality raw materials.

"I tend to work with cost, so I know the standards from the selection of the fabric, trim, prints, accessories and finishing," she says.

The design team has more than a decade of expert exper, with extensive training in fabrication, technology and finishing.

Wardrobe staples

CC Double O, which opened its first store at Mall of Asia, provides wardrobe staples. Koetsi says the simplicity of the styles allows the wearer's creative ability to shine. The brand's T-shirts are distinguished by the softness of the cotton and the fit. Its polo shirts feel like suede.

"Japanese silk is very difficult to mix, but we're able to mix the right threads and stitching and even include different patterns. We also use knit from Japan to make the styles look different," she says.

"The knit too fashion-forward. You can opt for jumpsuits or skinny-lined tops with little details like pocket trim, smocking, fine pleating and embroidery."

The combination of handwork and industrial machine gives the clothes an edge. This is also evident in CPS Chaps, which has its first store in Trinoma.

Chanchira Hongladarom, marketing and sales manager of CPS Chaps, says people patronize their label because it gives them more freedom to make a statement. An example, a grey oversized T-shirt with cutout detail worn under a cutout collar, worn off the shoulder, a paired with acid washed denims with handmade tatters and accessorized with miracle of peach

second around the neck and wrists and white platform sandals.

CPS Chaps' version of the rough chic trend is a cropped, sleeveless denim shirt with wide lapels, worn over a white ribbed tank and a floral-printed, pleated mini.

"These are the looks the customers wants when she visits the store," says Chanchira.

The tie-dye trend is updated in both geometric patterns and muted color washes. They are interpreted in harem pants and tunics that can be worn as mini or paired with a shantung tiered skirt. The men's line pays tribute to James Dean, only edgier with skinny pants, ripped with special washings and distress.

Bridesmaids

At Greenbelt 5, Lyn, the fashion footwear, has been doing brisk sales with metallic-wrapped sandals, espadrilles, cutouts and leather-wrapped platforms with big side buckles, suede sandals studded with square metals, platform sandalettes platforms with metallic heels, and the most adorable gladiator leather platforms with five-inch heels. A variation features T-straps with gold heels.

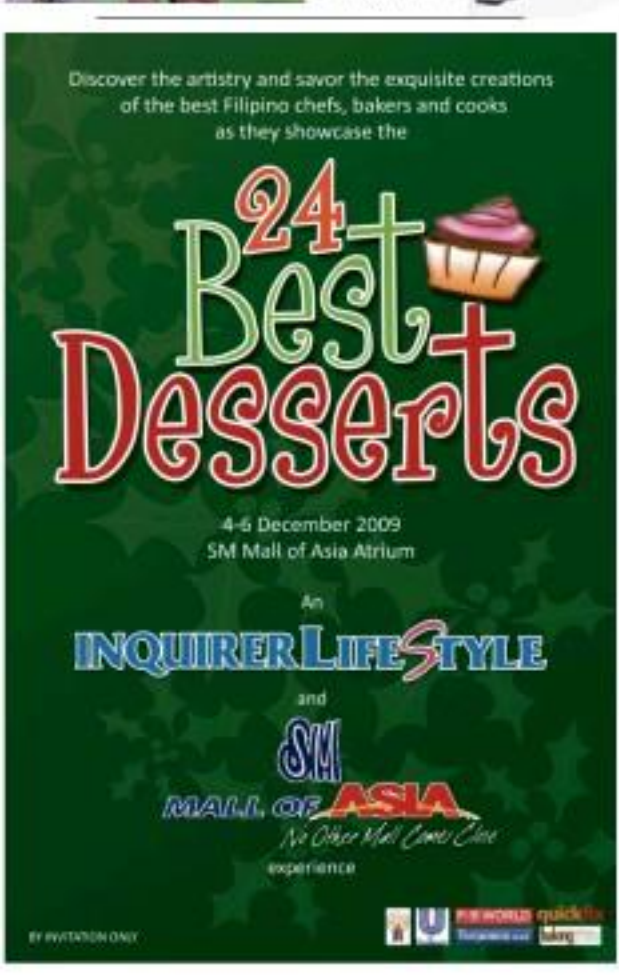
"You can get the gladiator look and still look feminine, not butch," says Sharon Jose, department-pick.

Although the chose look as if you'll end up running the shopping mall or gladiator if you wear them, Lyn shoes are actually very comfortable and ergonomic. Shod in killer heels, the body is pitched slightly forward with the weight on the whole foot.

The sexy designs are the selling point—sheer boots have gold studding and are slightly padded inside. Jelly shoes feature ensemble-stamped straps and bum, skidmarks that are infused with studs, plastic and bows, while casual suede shoes are fused with gold to exude luxury.

"We travel around the world to source the best components. The experts come from Brazil, the resin (shoe molds) are from Italy, France and China," explains Sharon.

Behind the sassy styles is a Brazilian designer Ivo Nissen who the sources Formula "Styling, quality and comfort."



Head out to your holiday shindigs all decked out in glitter and glitz with SM Department Store's new brand, **Soiree**

Tinsel town

A fancy jacket brings sparkle to any ensemble

Our way
Black tube jumpsuit, and sequined chiffon jacket, both from Soiree; black patent elastic waist belt, Alexandra; black studded leather cuff and bracelet, both from Danielle; silver studded bangles, bentitoes PHP790.

Dressed for success

Be the ultimate party princess in a pulled and glittered tulle skirt dress

Flash about

Beat even the paparazzi flare with a high shine tank top

Top notch

Luscious stocking stuffers

CHRISTMAS trunk

PENDANT and bracelets in metal, stones, wood, lacquer and resin

HOHOHOHOHO! Speedy bags in Monogram canvas

LOUIS VUITTON'S CHRISTMAS TRUNK MAY be too late to order for this year's list, but this is a keeper that will stay with the offbeat PR spin-boss for many generations to come.

A tribute to the brand's 19th-century holiday chest, the Monogram canvas Globe-trotter Trunk has 80 hand-blown Christmas glass ball ornaments and a collection of fingernail spheres, created for the occasion by the Montreal international glass work studio.

But what may be timely for the holiday gift-giving—for one's self or a loved one—are the iconic brand's Monogram purses that can now be personalized.

The service is offered for all Monogram leather products—Speedy, Keepall or Papier Tolédo.

"You can add your initials and choose from an array of colors, diagonal or vertical stripes, to distinguish your bag from others," says Rhonda Pirozzi of Louis Vuitton.

For the fashionista, there's a Monogram Idylle book on Dog called Courtney sporting one of the season's biggest trends: beads and beads galore.

Luscious stocking stuffers to-buy: scents, coats or lacquer boxes for avid pradaists.

Louis Vuitton is located at Greenbelt 4, Makati City.

COURTNEY bag in Monogram multicolored canvas

LUNAR bag in Marbled leather; key holder in animal

ARIONYES pendant, dice ring and bracelet, all in white gold set with Monogram Silver-cut diamond and brilliant diamonds

CRAQUANYTES hoop pendant with chain, earrings and heart-cut earrings, and Lovecraftes lip-gloss ring, all in white gold set with pink sapphires and diamonds

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

DOPPIO Tondo collection handbag in green-brown python skin

LEONI collection handbag in ebony-colored soft cobra skin

1910 collection shopping bag in brown-colored metallic cowhide and antique gold calf leather

Best-selling bags make a comeback

ITALIAN LUXURY BRAND BULGARI, WHICH IS marking its 125th year, brings back its most popular accessories collections this season—the Doppio Tondo, Leoni, 1910 and Twist.

1910 collection handbag in light gray buffalo leather

The new Doppio Tondo handbags feature clean lines and the classic double rings engraved with the "Bulgari Bulgari."

Doppio Tondo is one of the very distinctive patterns in Bulgari designs. In Italian, doppio tondo means "double round," which is embodied in double over-lapped raised metallic rings and double "Bulgari" engraved in each ring. The over-lapped double rings symbolize infinite love and the time classic Bulgari represents.

Vibrant red and fresh forest green are introduced to the fashion color canvas for Doppio Tondo handbags to relate with the Bulgari rubber and convertible, and further enhance the luxurious feminine character.

Bulgari's Leoni series of handbags is also experimented in a new casual style.

The new design also marries the original Tondo and Tassy to the curves of the handbag with rounded corners.

Collection 1910 is a throwback to the age when the first Bulgari store was opened in Rome's Via dei Condotti and the then advertising power of the brand. The main feature of the collection is the old Art Nouveau style ad sign that is printed on leather, silver linen and cotton canvas. Triangular-cut handles are made from calfskin with a special finishing that makes the leather smooth for everyday use.

1910 collection shoulder bag in brown-and-ecru color mesh leather

The double logo is the main decorative element of Twist. The logo is engraved on a pair of metal-lines. This season has come at downsizing styles for twist.

1910 collection shopping/handbag in light gray buffalo leather

Bulgari is located at Greenbelt 4, Makati City.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A LIFTH BY JOEL ABBEN

FUSED BARDY BY FIFI JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LONGSHOTS BY ELIZABETH CHERNOLD

JAMES BOND

DRYAD COMEDY BY STEVEN RABALDAS

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

TULOOK BY FABIO COLL

BEH BY DANIEL NELSON

ATOMO AND WEEDY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

KIKO MACHINE BY FRANCIS ABREN

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

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9 Bird of Ulysses
14 Ring
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Lane

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	3						8	
	5		4		3		2	
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			8	7	2			
1		4						7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
For more puzzles and computer versions of the game, visit www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

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1	9	3	4	2	6	5	7	8
8	7	5	3	8	9	6	1	2
2	4	6	1	5	7	3	6	9

BORDERLINED IN BLACK. Sleeves and hem are banded, bodice is printed. Modern shift dress worn by Stella Ocampo

MARRAKESH EXPRESS. Indian lace tunic dress shapes like a breezy smock on Vicky Zayco.

PEPTO PINK. Fitted and flared dress worn by Criselda Monares

DAY FOR NIGHT. Beaded rondelles on Anna Ortega with diamond-shaped shell headwork

PLEATED AND PEARLY. Gray tulle-pleated shift dress on Karleri Ilo

ZEBRA STRIPES. Animal magnetism on beaded shift dress worn by Lucy de Leon

CORAL ORANGE WITH JADE GREEN. Minimal maximalist shirt dress worn by Mara Pulido

Think tank, shift or shirt dress

CHANEL BY KARL LAGERFELD. Ageless elegance on beautiful Nenita Lim

FILLMI GATHERED DRESS in black and white on Rajeya Ily

By Lacy Lovino
Contributor

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON'S LBD (little is the day-to-night dress, specifically the tank dress, shift dress and shirt dress.

In this spread of the Best Dressed are young A-Listers, fashion misfits and nonconformists who turned up at Swimming's Showroom & at Seventeen last month. Breaking barrels at Greenbelt 3, and Ron Chua's opening of CC-OO. Chaps and Girl Shoes at White Space last week. Dresses were worn as cocktail frocks or day-to-evening numbers with a quick change of shoes and accessories.

The shift dress first designed in the '50s by Cristobal Balenciaga, is a one-piece wonder that evoked the new century for its formal comfort and architectural simplicity.

The tank dress was designed by Coco Chanel in the '50s, and the American design great Claire McCardell designed the shirt dress garnered after a man's button-down shirt in the '60s. All three allied streamlined comfort and no-fuss maintenance.

The classician, jewel-toned number suits our climate well. You put it on then zip it up and forget about it—our country's chief fashion staple makes the boot and humidity. Ready to be wrapped for cruise evenings.

Here were by ladies of all sizes of society, the beloved tank dress seasoned into every imaginable form. The standouts were in graphic black and white, either banded or with big prints, even striped with contrasting borders. Other versions had cutaway bead work or tasselle applications.

There were other guises of the dress. Some were semi-casuals, like the garment with which Diane Von Furstenberg created a business-empire opire.

Speaking of empires, from were the baby-doll versions, less grown up with plunging necklines and in bold and bright colors. Some dresses were worn as tunic with pants, while others resembled bikini bras were away from the body.

Gone are those beautiful dames in their daredevil best. Using each dress, their own intrinsic stamp of identity and good taste, and yes, due to the final frontier in fashion. First, trend their style and finally cases. You are born with it.

> The tank dress—You put it on, zip it up and forget about it

FILLMI GATHERED DRESS in black and white on Rajeya Ily

TUDOR COAT DRESS. JC Rivera for Elizabeth Fashion Boutique dress in coral wool knit with delight jacket

CLASSIC WRAPAROUND. The dress that launched a princess. Diane Von Furstenberg wore it by Kat Tuason-Meinrad

VINTAGE TAPESTRY. Print doll dress on Rissy Rocco at Breitling launch

EGYPTIAN BEADWORK. Fresh chartreuse dress with brass and wooden border treatments worn by Marbeta Budlmont

HOT IS BIG. Tribal prints in chocolate and white worn by Rachel Clamort

SIBERNA BY GIVENCHY. Vicki Belo wears a mystical silk jacquard shift dress in Haute Krishna orange.

BOLD Bangkok statement jewelry on Kid Lim at Lyn Ann launch

PERSIMMABLE BLUE. Tunic dress with white lace applique on Patricia Ngayo

The open secret of Manila's Who's Who

By Jake Ramirez
Correspondent

GOSSIP GIRLS IS NOT ANYMORE A laughing matter. So for some VIPs, getting the best cosmetic surgeon around is a must.

But Manila high society knows where the best around. Except that it's difficult getting to Dr. Aivee Aguilar Teo's new clinic at Parkwinners Center's Burgos Circle in Bonifacio Global City.

It was like a secret operation. There were no signages, no directions. I had to go around the block once and finally pressed the gate to ask the guard for the exact location.

I had my last operation under her a year ago in her old clinic when she was still holding office in the corner of 29th Street at The Fort. It was nothing chaotic, just a simple lift-n called Juvederm to remove the deep lines between my eyebrows.

For the cost of a designer shoe on sale, it was the best investment. Three down on Dr. T removed a few years from my weary face.

In her old clinic, I saw some patients who were quite popular given that the receiving area was small. Confidentiality was the least priority and even the waiting-room at the office opposite the clinic could see the arrival of Teo's patients.

But it's different now in her new address. Confidentiality is all.

Walking into her new Leo Espinosa-designed clinic was like walking into a dream... a modern French Victorian with a refreshing twist. Plush couches and rustic accent lamps with big gold framed mirrors abound, high-curtain drapes shielded guests from the afternoon sun, and there were lots of space to move in.

The door alone was a statement, a big white one with two locking double-fix to create a style sitting as door handles.

The receptionist led me to Teo's receiving/consultation room and there she was, sitting behind her desk, holding my record.

Given Teo's glowing list of clientele, she has finally made the big move. Her Singaporean husband, Dr. Z. Teo, who was in town for a visit, gave me a quick tour of the entire clinic, which occupied the entire second floor of the four building. It has its own operating room and eight suites for those seeking more closely her cosmetics for their dermatological needs.

Privacy is their utmost concern: a special passageway that directly connects to the ground level driveway for Teo's famous patients' entry/exit can be found near the operating room.

She even thought of adding a "make-up" room for those who are in a rush to hop to a "chi-chi" event after treatment, just bring your own makeup artist, though.

Another room is entirely devoted to hair treatment alone, ranging from dandruff to hair loss.

Top training

Teo got her medical degree from the University of Santo Tomas. Deciding she wanted to be a dermatologist, she went to Singapore for her specialization.

She is in demand for her Botox treatment, dermafillers and liposuction/body sculpting.

The couple met when they were both doing their residency at the National Skin Centre in Singapore, and their union have an adorable boy, now 2 years old.

I maintain a clinic of his own in Singapore at the Paragon Medical Suites on Orchard Road, and Teo comes over once a month there since she is maintaining three clinics in Manila.

When I asked if his clientele in Singapore is comparable to his wife's highly top-secret Manila list, he gave out a hearty laugh and said, "Not as famous as hers."

On top of her main clinic, she has saved. Her clinics at the Asian Hospital & Medical Center and Las Piñas Doctors Hospital.

Teo is the scion of the Aguilars/Villars of Las Piñas. She went to Rep. Cynthia Aguilar Villar and her uncle is Sen. Manuel Villar.

Her entire week is divided into holding office in three locations, and she gives free medical services to the poor of Las Piñas every Saturday.

Looking at her face, it was hard to tell she's 38. She smiles a lot and has a positive outlook. She said she does have those herself, but believes that it is more for personal than for anything else.

She's following in Manila is like a cult one. She's eagerly courted by high-profile owners, from show biz to politics and high society, from publishing and broadcasting.

Name a beautiful person whose photo you have seen in the glossy magazines or society pages, most likely, it's for Instawork. She keeps them supple and beautiful—and she keeps them all confidential.

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

How the Philippine map revitalized a brand–and a country

By Alex T. Vergara

WHEN BEN NEPOMUCENO AQUINO finally declared his intentions to run for president early September, the buoyant son of democracy icon Cory Aquino wore a black polo shirt embroidered with the Philippine map in canary yellow.

Whatever made the shirt worn's important, but the fact that it was worn by a high-profile individual in a supposedly historic event spoke volumes of how a ubiquitous national symbol was now set to map us to becoming a global fashion icon.

For several seasons now, Filipinos and even foreigners have been sporting various articles of clothing emblazoned—painted, embroidered or beaded—with the country's map. The Philippine map shirt is a favorite pasalubong of balikbayans in the US.

Filipinos love fashion designer Rhett Eala and businessman Joey Que, managing director of Collezione C2 retail stores, to thank for making this happen. Apart from shirts, the Philippine map has now been used in way on C2's shorts, skirts, dresses and even canvas bags.

"Contrary to what some people think," says Que, "Collezione never left the scene. We have added C2 to distinguish it as a second-generation Collezione."

Brand repositioning

Eala joined the company in 2003. Five years earlier, UE graduate Que, son of Collezione founder Henry Que, convinced his mother to oversee manufacturing and reposition the brand on a more jaded and discriminating market.

"Collezione's reputation for producing practical and quality clothes was still there," says Que. "But it was losing out to all the buzz being created by other brands, both local and foreign. It clearly needed to be repositioned for a new generation of shoppers."

Repositioning involved venturing beyond the confines of department stores, and opening stand-alone boutiques selling not just shirts...but a lifestyle. C2 was clearly in need of a seasoned creative hand to advance its new agenda.

Que invited Eala to join the team. As the brand's creative director, Eala was to take charge of everything involving design, from the clothes to the store's look and layout.

The duo first thought of putting the country's map on a few key C2 pieces during Eala's debut collection in 2005. Que also had several women shirts made for him with the map embroidered above the breast pocket. Feedback was instant.

"I was thinking of something casually unique to put on a few shirts and dresses, and the Philippine map crossed my mind," says Eala. "In hindsight, C2's success springs from Filipino's patriotism and the distinct shape of our archipelago. There's nothing quite like it."

"They wanted to know where I got my shirt," adds Que. "At the same time, Rhett also got positive reviews from his collection with the map."

Viral marketing

The developments gave birth to what Que's marketing team, led by Carol Lozano, dubbed as "viral" marketing. As opposed to "interruptive" marketing in the form of billboards, C2 relied on publicity generated by word-of-mouth.

Once people learned that the shirts were available at C2's lone outlet at Market Market!, they lost no time going there. It was only a matter of time before Que opened more branches to cope with surging demand. Eala also has had to expand C2's product range to sustain public interest.

Que did the unprecedented by having the Philippine map patented a few years ago, giving C2 exclusive legal rights to put the map on articles of clothing.

But this hasn't stopped copycats from following their lead. Rather than cast the law by hiding somewhere to cower, Que, for now, at least, would rather let C2's quality and range of offerings do the talking.

And people don't seem to have enough of them. A visit to C2's boutique at Power Plant Mall, the brand's 24th and perhaps most modern stand-alone store within a span of eight years, gives us an idea of how far the map has become.

As soon as one set of shoppers leaves the place, another set enters the store to check on C2's latest offerings. Peculiar features to quite list, says Eala, that since you spot something you like, you better get it since it might not be there anymore next time.

Complete with a series of TV monitors clad in matte, stainless steel casings, the well-lighted store in Bonifacio is as modern as they come.

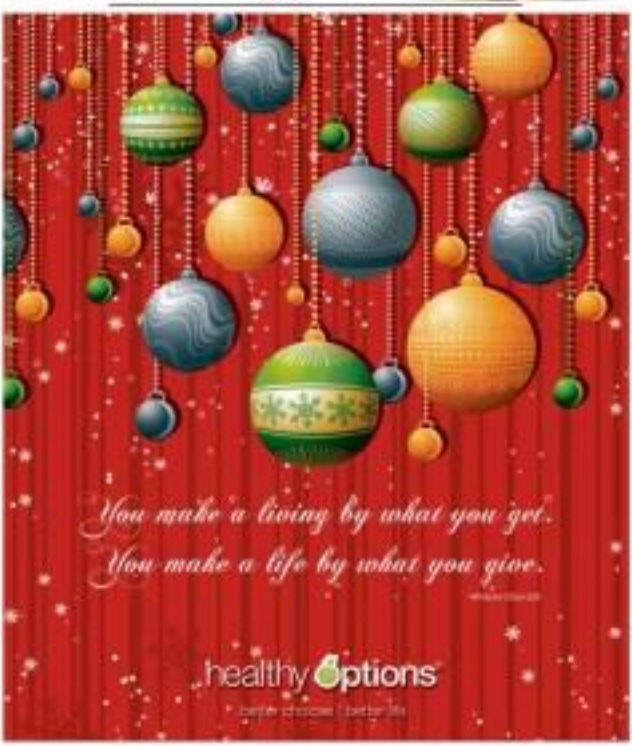
Apart from bags conditions

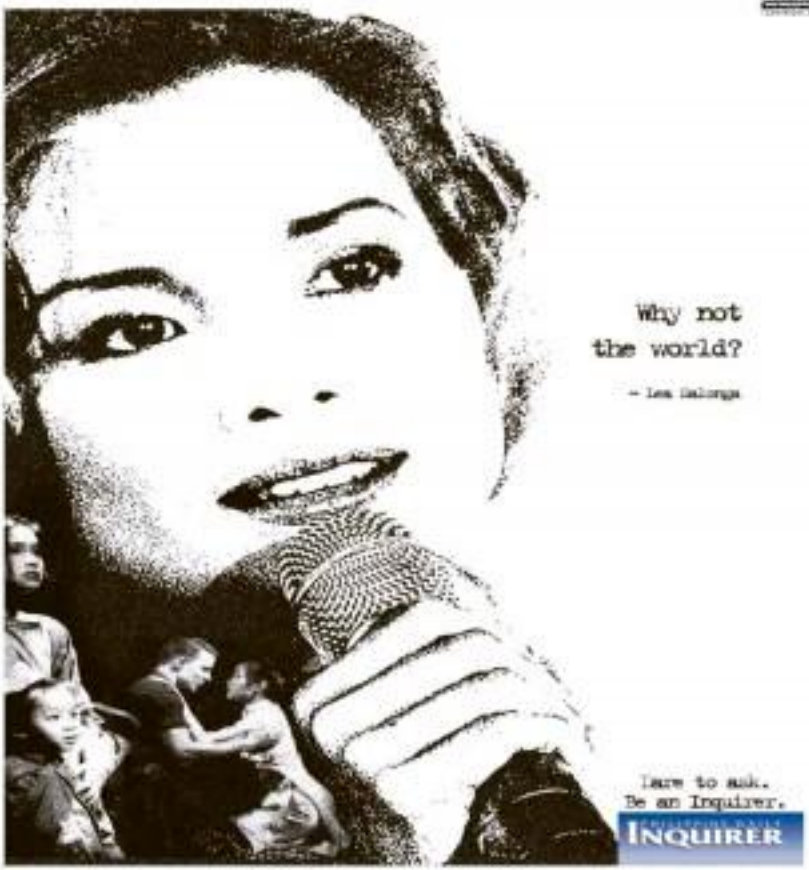
TYDEN bags now carry the NP map.

RHETT Eala

JOEY Que, Collezione managing director

'The distinct shape of our archipelago –there's nothing quite like it,' says designer Rhett Eala





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KATE Moss wearing her holiday collection for Topshop

Kate Moss' ultimate Xmas party dress

KATE MOSS FOR TOPSHOP's Christmas collection embraces chic, smart tailoring and exquisite satin pencil skirts in navy or black and black grosgrain bear mock shift dresses for the ultimate in ladylike dressing.

For the ultimate Christmas party dress, black rectangular jagged sequin bandeau maxi dresses are chic and sexy. The strapless banded top or those with empire waists and pleated skirt that evoke femininity with every flirty to very flattering and festive.

Also big this season are rosebrocade floral beaded embellished long sleeves and strapless mini dresses (covered in black suede panels and gold beads). Snake-print leather shift belts wrap around tunic dresses, and scratch feathers adorn the sleeves of shift dresses.

The holiday collection is also big on oriental spice. The body-hugging sheerquin dress, for instance, which is traditionally made in embroidered satin, has evolved with materials like gunmetal Lurex knit, from the classic mid-length hemline dress has been stylized for a more functional form, with a modish twist and semi-flared with a crossover V-neck.

Topshop branches are located at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, The Podium, Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Power Plant Mall, SM Mall of Asia, Greenbelt 3, Rockwell, High Street, Alabang Town Center, TriNoma, Ayala Center Cebu.

How the Philippine map. . .

Pretzel page 4-E

of the country's map on the store's show window and foyer leading to a pair of fitting rooms, the decor is decidedly minimal and in many ways an extension of Edu as a designer: Clean, modern and devoid of unnecessary details that could ruin an otherwise great design.

Instead of hiring her Brazilian mannequins, Edu, in keeping with the brand's image, hired Filipino models to peddle his clothes. Their images were enlarged and splashed on the store's walls.

Fitting rooms pay homage to Collezione's 17-year-old heritage through customized wallpapers with montage of sepia-toned images showing famous people, including Henry Sapinit, wearing the brand.

C2 T-shirts going into children's clothes

WEARABLE, practical and smart ensembles

C2 SELLS as "viral" marketing to push products

Smart and practical

Overseas Filipinos, either directly or through their relatives here, have also been snapping the products in bulk to relatives there abroad. Quorum received a series of inquiries from a Mexican who wanted to sell the shirts for them in Los Angeles. Like many foreigners, the guy was "fascinated" in the Philippine map through one of his Filipino friends who gifted him with a C2 t-shirt.

But although Quo is open to it, forging partnerships abroad would have to wait. His company only barely cope with local demand.

"If you look closely, not all our products have the map," says Edu. "But admittedly 99 percent of our stuff has it. Embroidered bags are our latest addition. We're thinking of expanding the line to include children's clothes."

In keeping with the brand's image as a truly global Filipino company, Quo, unlike most of his colleagues in the retail biz, refused to have his stuff manufactured elsewhere, not even in China. Rather than let the quality suffer just to meet demand and reduce overhead, he would rather keep operations small and quality tightly controlled.

"Our people in manufacturing have been with us for decades," he says. "Their experience and attention to details show in the products we produce. I don't think we would have been able to maintain the quality we want by farming our products out to other manufacturers."

Apart from Edu's smart and practical designs, part of the brand's lure is decidedly its price. Polo shirts sell anywhere from P600 to P800 each, while woven office shirts sell at P1,200 each. Dresses can set you back by P600 to P900 a piece.

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Hotel dreams of green Christmas

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA RECENTLY crushed the beginning of the holiday season with its annual tree-lighting ceremony, a tradition celebrated with family and friends, loyal patrons and rest and guests.

During the launch, Makati Shangri-La lit colorful lights for a cluster of trees that glistened at the main lobby to signify the hotel's green initiative, Dream-ing of a Green Christmas. This is a continuous effort to plant more trees, following the successful launch of last year's seedlings for Christmas.

Leading the lighting ceremony are (on the area manager) general manager of Makati Shangri-La, Hans Hansen; distinguished guests of honor, Shang Properties, Inc. president Andy Ramolete; World Wildlife Fund vice president for marketing for Asia-Pacific Ivonne Reyes; Philippine Star vice-chairman and president Miguel Belmonte; and ABS-CBN senior correspondent and breakfast journalist Korina Sanchez-Roxas.

Each candle lit represented the hope to restore an abandoned and healthy environment for future generations.

The lit-seeding of a Green Christmas project (tel. 813-6868) or visit the Dreaming of a Green Christmas booth on the main lobby of Makati Shangri-La soon to enhance the lyn wonderful holidays, which includes memorable rare scenes to Shows Manila and other provinces. It is estimated that only 30 percent of the lyn contributed is covered by forest.

Experts say it may take up to 20 years to evolve the trees. With this in mind, Makati Shangri-La hopes that no green animals will contribute to the recovery of the Ips Diary, proving that taking care of the environment through hands-on activities can truly make a difference.

With a minimum pledge of P1,000 per seeding, a tree will be planted in honor of the guest, making him or her a forest patron or seedling, and inviting the guest in taking care of the trees until they grow bigger. The hotel aims to plant 100,000 trees. Still, business partners, friends and guests will be invited to join the actual tree-planting event scheduled in January 2010.

In the spirit of giving back, Makati Shangri-La has prepared green gifts as a gesture of gratitude to enabling donors who share their support. Every guest who purchases a Christmas seedling will be entitled to a raffle coupon for a chance to win one of the 10 Green Gifts available.

These green items showcase such as energy-saving gadgets and two-night stay in Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa or Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa, reflect the hotel's appreciation and cause of protecting the environment.

To join, guests must complete the coupon and drop it in the corresponding green gift drop box located at the main lobby. Deadline of submission of entries is on or before Dec. 30, 6 p.m. The lucky winners of the green gifts will be notified through e-mail and phone call on the day of the raffle draw scheduled on Jan. 4, 2010.

As the sparkle of the last candle illuminates the remaining Christmas tree, Makati Shangri-La took a personal pledge towards a greener earth in the hope that this gesture to make a difference will spread throughout the local community. Guests of the night cooked in joyous Christmas carols sung by the UP Manila Chorale as cocktails were passed around over warm welcomes and cheerful conversations among friends and fellow environmental advocates.

MAKATI Shangri-La area manager general manager Hans Hansen; president and CEO of Shang Properties Inc., Andy Ramolete; World Wildlife Fund Philippines regional marketing coordinator Susan Ruivo; and ABS-CBN senior correspondent and breakfast journalist Korina Sanchez-Roxas

LOOK, all dolled up with dainty pink-trimmed tiny clutches.

BLACK and white never look like passé. Sophisticated pumps with decorative bling matched to puffed sleeved blouse

KEEP your girl to-style and comfy in Bench-Jeans' Barcelona available at SM's Children's Wear

Young glam

WITH MOST STYLISH women opting for black and white wardrobes, it's not surprising that they would dress their kids in these classic colors.

SM's black-and-white collection for young girls exudes young glam. The shapes and silhouettes are child-friendly girls, but have a smart and sophisticated edge and a lot of wit and flair.

The collection is trendy just like mom's, with loads of fashion fun. It is available at the Children's Wear department of SM stores.

Christmas concert marks Manila Cathedral's 50th year

THE 49TH MANILA INTERNATIONAL Pipe Organ Festival Solo Concert will be on Dec. 3, 7 p.m. The event (tel. 527-1790, 527-5889, 897-7610/891-1) will feature the biggest church pipe organ in Southeast Asia with almost 5,000 pipes. The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra will perform under Austrian conductor, Dr. Ernest Hoetzl. The concert will gather 1945 voices in a combined choir to sing Christmas carols to be conducted by Amelita Galaura. The concert will benefit the Manila Cathedral's restoration projects and the archives of "Cinelyra" and "Cinema 1." It is spearheaded by the Manila Cathedral Basilica Foundation and is organized by the Friends of the Manila Cathedral.

Calamity debriefing, stress management

A calamity debriefing and stress management workshop will be held Nov. 28-29, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Penthouse Deck 2101, Asia Advance Buildings of Makati. J.P. Rizal Makati. tel. 813-5864, 897-5050/51 and 0917-8577662). Topics include stress, burnout and trauma, debriefing lecture, actual debriefing dynamics, coping techniques, actual ready-to-do-list coping techniques, The Process of Healing, Actual Healing through Body Movement, Anger Management, Emotional Sentiment and Bereavement, Survival Kit, Practical Tips, the Power of Healing and Closeness. Speakers are Lynn Payao, who has been a workshop director for 15 years, a healer at the State University of New York, Institute Science of Positive Behavior, Mind Dynamics and Stress Management, and Cristina Gaerlan, director, educator, mentor at Teacher Alive, facilitator in Special Olympics for special children, and has facilitated several workshops at Teacher Alive and other organizations.

Book on achievers

"Outstanding Filipino Achievers," a coffee-table book by Visitacion "Gigi" R. de la Torre, is one of the press. The 412-page book, an [illegible] of outstanding achievers in various fields, was launched at the Manila Hotel. Among the featured achievers are Ambassador Leticia Ramos Shahani, Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan, Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Awardee Dr. Ramon Gonzalez

Editor Ennie G. Velarde

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Big baby delivers big message

SAN DIEGO: Geographer Scruggs in Manila a life-size replica of a baby blue whale in an exhibit designed to promote the conservation of marine life and ecosystems. "Big Blue," unveiled Tuesday in Glorietta 5, will be there until Nov. 20. It goes to Bellevue Nov. 28-Dec. 11, Alabang Town Center, Jan. 4-17; Market! Market!, Jan. 16-Feb. 2; Ayala Center, Feb. 3-17.

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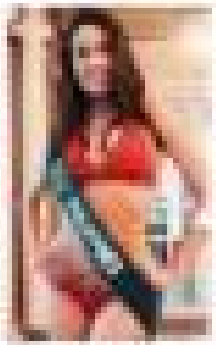
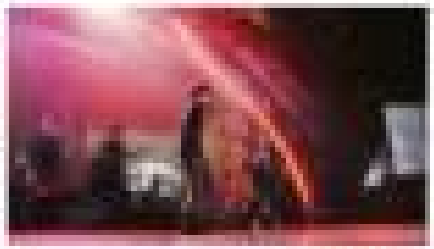


Davao band snags 5th 'Soundskool' crown



Free gig: Ittapi, Itchyworms, Moymoy

Coming home . . . again

One a heartthrob, the other a legend

LOS ANGELES—WE interviewed two actors, both named Robert, in the same week —one, a legend, the other, a heartthrob. Robert De Niro and Robert Pattinson don't have much in common except their first names and status of human Sex. De Niro can be funny once he warms up to the interviewer while Pattinson virtually chuckled from beginning to end of the press con.

"Will you marry me?" one female reporter proposed to Pattinson. She was, of course, joking "since we all know that in the 'Eclipse' release of 'The Twilight Saga' series, Edward, Gabriel and Bella Swan finally get engaged. Or at least we thought our Asian friend was only teasing Pattinson, because he was downright embarrassed and cringeing to our knowing encounter with him.

Only in Hollywood

Robert C. Yejadlee

Marriage proposals

"Why not?" Pattinson shot back, his blue-green eyes smiling and his face blushing. "With his three exes? Solid but geometry and trademark bed hair adding to his regular charm, Pattinson probably gets several marriage proposals every day, from Megan Fox said to our interview. "I want to see Robert Pattinson."

In case you've been living in Mars, Pattinson is vampire Edward to Kristen's mortal Bella in the film adaptations of the "The Twilight Saga" series. The latest installment, "New Moon," is expected to be a huge hit. De Niro, on the other hand, stars in the action-thriller "Machete" and in "Stone," with Dawn Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale and Sam Rockwell playing his offspring.

We talked to Pattinson in LA; a few days later, we interviewed De Niro in New York.

Let's begin with Pattinson, who was confronted by several reporters when their cast line on the London set of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" in 2005. "Thank you very much—you're one of a few people who have seen it," he said with a laugh when complimented about his performance as Edward in "Eclipse." which he left at the premiere's bloodship with co-star Kristen Stewart (Bella) and director Summit Gosling (who's joined by Jason Bateman) and Australian Taylor Lautner to pre-Civil War Spain. The film explores Lorca's unrequited infatuation with Dali.

On falling in love with his co-stars: girlfriends, Pattinson grinned and said: "I haven't done that many things with leading ladies. The only other love story I did was with a guy playing Lorca which was just you. I guess I fell in love with him a little bit but he couldn't speak much English though."

Reminded that last time he told us he was having problems dating girls, Pattinson remarked: "Yes, you're always going to have problems. I mean [laughs] just like with being a guy. I guess." Bilked about now being engaged to real-female guys, he grandly said, "Yeah, I do. They always want you to marry them immediately [laughs]. It's all the same" from.

"I'm honestly being self-deprecating," he said of his disarming, self-effacing British trait. "Eventually people see like, Oh, we're sick of the self-deprecating act. Why can't he prove some truths?' Cause you have to self-verify that. You do it really. But if you keep putting yourself down all the time, an audience suddenly goes, 'That guy is an idiot' [laughter]. So it's strange. You have to push to create some. It's always two steps forward, one step back."

"I don't like having people around me that much," he admitted. "I don't want an assistant. I don't like having a publicist. The more people you have around you, the more people are telling you what to do. And also, the more people you have to pay. It sounds terrible but I find most publicists' opinions irrelevant [laughter]."

While he has mixed feelings about not having that LA environment —a publicist— and that's rumored for an index of his romance, Pattinson continued to enjoy living in London. We like him even more for his results: "It's weird because I always thought of myself as very English until this year" he declared. "Then you kind of realize it's not. I can't claim it to be my home anymore so it's strange. I feel very comfortable back in LA more than much more comfortable than I thought I was going to be so it's also."

Paparazzi culture

He he observed, "The craziest paparazzi culture got to be in LA. It's weird what kind of paparazzi culture to have. Then he quipped, "A lot of people seem have to be filmed by the paparazzi."

And where are his next acting things? Pattinson replied, "That's an unusual thing. Yeah, they were making a flick their actual focus. They're all considered of awarding making. That's the strange thing as well because the girls, especially, have memories on and small. In that saying to people that they just turn out to have memories on their eyelids, so when they have false eyelashes or do they get on makeup everyday? It's a weird thing. I have no idea," he quipped. "I guess there's only a limited number of ways to look pale."

On his 22-hour workdays filming the video (they just finished "Eclipse," the third installment), Pattinson commented: "If you wake up at 5 in the morning to go to work, when you get home, you're ready work to do anything. You just want to go to bed [laughs]. I still don't really know what my life is. The best answer I could give is that is that you get to see a lot of cute bathrooms in hotels around the world [laughs]. You always get to see the nicest ones."

Day-off in Italy

Still, the press guy got to see a nice hammock during a rare filming break in Montepulciano, Italy, so he's relaxing there. He said, "I'm going back to where I stayed just outside Montepulciano because it was the most incredible place I've ever stayed in. It was like villa with other buildings. I had one day off in Italy. I was just relaxing in a hammock all day. And this guy came up with a glass of wine and said, 'You've got to try this.' That was the best day I've had all year, I think."

The rebel student bits different, the guy whose hair is always artfully disheveled? "Oh, I have had hair days occasionally."

While Pattinson is on his way on, the great De Niro was handing on the table in front of him as the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel as he settled to the second coach's seat. Asked what he is passion of no life 40-year plus career, De Niro replied: "Time. It's still here. I couldn't tell where I would end up. I'm happy. It's still here—travels on vacation—traveling, working."

His central off what's important in his life right now: "My family and the kids and they're doing okay, moving on and doing well. I just got a report card for both my twins (Aaron and Aaron, 14) and they did very well. I'm so happy about that and about working. I hope this movie is received well. And done well. I want to stay active as long as I can and that's about it."

A journalist prefaced her question to De Niro about "Everybody's Fine" the plots a widower who goes on a road trip to reconnect with his grown kids with. "You and I probably belong to the same generation..." With the attaches on that iconic face relaxing, and he was broadening into youthful title. De Niro joked, "I'm a generation younger than you."

He claimed that he does not look back at his previous work: "I was always thinking. Or like to find time to look at all my movies from the very beginning to the latest but I don't know if I'll ever do that." De Niro said. "Maybe I will. I find myself sometimes talking to people who I've known for many years like Harvey Keitel. I am doing a few scenes with him to Meet the Little Fockers' and we were reminiscing about some things too many years ago and each other for a long time." Again breaking into that impish smile, he chuckled, "You start doing that when you get older."

Media shy

Since De Niro's a famously media shy, he was asked if he is more loquacious in private. "It depends," he answered. "Sometimes I am [silk]. I like to talk to the kids about things that I think are important for them to know, and to debate. Sometimes it's hard to communicate to your kids. They're in their own world. But even though they look like they're not listening, they are actually listening, that what you're saying sinks an impression. You just have to accept that you're not going to get exactly more from them at that point but it sinks in [laughter]."

As an actor, De Niro is from but he's itching to direct again. "I want to do like the second part to 'The Good Shepherd,'" he lobbied their Matt Damon movie. "I have to rely on a terrific script by Eric Roth. Then I get the actors who will make it happen because the money people will want to put their money in what they want to do. It's that simple. But that's just the beginning of the battle."

The man who gave us Travis Bickle, Jake La Motta, Vito Corleone and many memorable characters another number of hardly said that he does not think about the impact he's going to make when he's gone. He said, "You're doing it and then people read."

Of the comedies he acts in, De Niro is candid about them: "Shit, I have fun with them too, and I earn a good living from them." With that statement, the wealthy De Niro even quite dissolved into chesty laughter.

Read the columnist at rwspalo.blogspot.com and read his blog, "The Movies Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/reportsquirt.

2 Roberts: Pattinson has little in common with De Niro, apart from their first names, celebrity and a sense of humor

De Niro: 'Sometimes it's hard to talk to kids' Pattinson: 'Most people's opinions are irrelevant'

TV reporter falls in love with story, makes movie

By Rogelio San Diego Jr.

AFTER JOINING DIET DIRECTOR OF THE 2007 Silver Mandin Film Festival for "Bend," GMA-7 reporter Gene Apolinario took a two-year break before returning with not just one, but two digital movies—"Extinction" and "Pretend."

After "Bend," Apolinario said, he had "severed" offers. "I was asked to do a love story, but I didn't like the scripts." He was also offered a gay-themed film. But he says there is no plan for second movie because I want to [and] not because I had to do a follow-up."

Since his job as reporter has always been his priority, he didn't have time to work on a second movie project, so he was also sure he'd rather go independent.

In January 2009, he told the ground-work for "Extinction," he related. "Two years ago, I did a story [for the GMA-7 news program '24 Oras'] on a teenaged boy who walked from Laguna to Quiapo for three days to join the annual procession and reach the image of the Nazarene. He was just 16. I felt in love with that story."

On the eve of his first shooting day, his producer backed out. "Call it a leap of faith, but I still decided to start filming," Apolinario recounted.

Armed with his Panasonic HPX-300 camera, he and his ragtag cast and crew

traveled to Quiapo, just like the teenager in his film.

"I wanted to do a documentary. It took me three months to decide to shoot it as a feature film," he admitted. "I also realized up pre-busting it myself. Most of my savings went into this project."

The tabloid staffer was "very nervous" Apolinario said. "From age 10 to 16, I spent Holy Week walking from Novaliches to a grotto in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. I'm not his exact's pious to observance."

When he became a TV reporter, he took it upon himself to cover the Quiapo festivities. "I've been doing it for 10 years now. I told myself that I'd make a film about Quiapo someday."

Apolinario was not out to focus on poverty. "I just wanted to tell a boy's story. I was fortunate to have interviewed him and his mother in Laguna."

He finds it unusual that his lead

CLIMAX Apolinario (r) with an actor on set of movie, Extinction. He is director in the 2007 Metro Manila Film Festival entry Bendsays the story.

'This boy walked 3 days from Laguna to join the procession in Quiapo'

actor, Rinnalin Rosario and Miss Gemma—governorly known by stay Dicks—have agreed to do a "religious" film. "They were real pros, but they did not collect money back."

"Extinction" had a week-long run at Robinsons Galleria's Indiebox this month.

Apolinario's "Pretend," which tackles education and child labor, is produced by fellow reporter Aiken de la Cruz.

"I enjoy making movies," he said. "I just hope more people get to watch it after films."

LIVING Stars
Editor Ernesto G. Velarde

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Confessions of a teenage shopaholic

By Regina Sun Diego Jr.
Photos by Andrew Tablan

NEW VIVA SINGER TRIX Payoyo is a self-confessed shopaholic.

It didn't help that the Ayoyo family home in Cainta, Cubao, was only five minutes from the mall. At such, it was easy for mom Beth and dad Boy to indulge their 16-year-old only child Trix's shopping urges.

Not quite. "I'd tell dad, the mall is calling my name. There's a sale!"

When the family moved back to Manila, Trix brought home 20 bulging boxes filled with her stuff.

But the Miss Teen Philippines-Universe 2007 title holder can also be a practical shopper. She scours bargain bins for vintage DVDs and scary-stocked Quiapo to buy a Filipiniana costume for school.

Her advice to other girls: "Dress your age. Your style should reflect your personality. Have fun with your clothes."

Shoes

"My friends call me lowkita, but I'm not really kinekilig," Trix says, pointing out that she has only 50 pairs—neatly lined up on a rack by her bedroom door.

"I'm comfortable in either heels or tennis shoes," she notes. She can easily shift from Nike to Michael Kors, from Bershka to Juicy Couture.

Her latest faves are denim, "which dumbwaiter and hip-hop chanter wear."

Bags

Her bag collection can almost

Viva singer Trix is called 'Imelda' by pals because of her various collections

CONFESSIONS, p2

Parting is such sweet joy

By Marinel R. Cruz

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4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
6 2012
7 2012
8 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
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10 2012

ERMITA

1 2012
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 2012
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
7 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

METRO EAST

1 2012
2 2012
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
7 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON / 2012
8 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

NOVALICHES — PIONEER

1 2012
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
1 2012
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
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2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 2012
1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 2012
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

DASMARIÑAS — IMUS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 2012
4 THE CARRIERS
1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 2012
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

STARMILLS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
5 2012
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON / 2012

ANGELES — TACLOBAN

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 2012
1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 2012

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 2012
5 2012
6 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 2012
5 2012
6 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

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1 2012
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

Imee's 'birthday de avance'

"BIRTHDAY DE AVANCE" PHOTO: Imee Bones Marie Pop Stang-bong Marcos described the party-his sister-hosted last Nov. 12 at the Marcos home in San Juan. Some 200 guests, mostly political allies of the Marcoses, attended the gathering that also ended at midnight. The cast of "Pinta Kasi," the movie Imee is producing under the Creative Media and Film Academy of the Philippines, were also present: Aleya Uytingco, Alex Gutara, JM de Guzman and Aleya Garcia. Acting Elizabeth Oropesa was also spotted. Imeldific Marcos gifted her 14-year-old daughter with a song. Married R. Cruz

PARTY! PARTY!

Cinema One awards night, Nov. 15, in QC

Parting is such . . .

From page D

Nikki San also commented why Anna Jose, she said, "a lot of gay friends are dying to have."

Angel considers a lucrative Belly and Vilma Santos-Recto she has directed. She has auditioned off 34 other belongings.

Imee is elected, Bimp and Aiwa has made over $15,000. Proceeds go to the Philippine National Red Cross.

A total of 50 more items are being auc-

KRIS Aquino is another celeb donat-

tioned off on Ebayph, including Kris Aquino's designer bags, Manny Pacquiao's autographed training shoes and Oge Alcaraz's Gundam toy robot, in mint condition.

Other donors are: Dennis Trillo, Iza Calzado, Luis Manzano, Piolo Pascual, John Lloyd Cruz, Bubbles Paraiso, Kelly Gonzalez, Regine Velasquez, Kris Cruz, Marian Rivera, Dingdong Dantes, Pokwang and Isabel Andreas.

Most of the bidders are Filipinos living abroad, Isaac noted. "That's expected. Our target market consists of Pinoys who have enough, with extra to spare. We're skipped alot of items."

Aiza and Angel are considering making the auction fundraising exercise a yearly undertaking. "But we hope we won't be raising funds for calamity victims again," said Angel.

Confessions of a teenage shopaholic

GARDEN Graham's Hanajuki Lovers Mask fragrance.

PRADUDU' Pinay sneakers from Asos

By Ana Legaspi II

(and despite every (c) women twice her age.

Last she counted, she had 32 in various styles, shapes, sizes and colors. Most of these are from the sassy line Juicy Couture. She bought her first JC when she was 13, and has been hooked since.

She's open to other designer labels as well. Her mom has given her a Chanel purse; her dad, a classic Vuitton clutch and tote.

Both JC bag classics with matching wallet, Tiki notes.

Charms, watches, bangles

JC merchandise includes a line of charms, bracelets, bangles, watches, necklaces and others or trinkets. Quite naturally, Tita has accumulated a treasure trove of these accessories, too.

She loves her pink JC watch, and her gold and silver JC charms.

"I have about 20 charms and bracelets," says Tita. "I love them! charms because they express my personality. I'm very loving and caring towards my family and friends."

Earrings, rings

Although she does ... again, JC think, she often wears huge fancy rings and earrings.

"I go for rings in rainbow colors, so I can match them with different outfits," she says. "Rings and earrings add spice to my wardrobe."

She was delighted to find hand-shaped ring organizers in Quiapo. "I don't like mess," Tita says. "I know that my bedroom looks like a department store, but I like things organized."

Gowns, dresses

Did we say she shops in Quiapo? For her school's "Lingguhang White" celebrations, she bought a red one there.

"It cost P1,500. My mom wanted a discount, so I rang 'Bow' for the vendor who gave it to us for P1,200," she proudly gloated. She also wore the set to the music video of her CD's title track, "Isang Himpong Kanta."

For shoes, she's partial to little clothes for their youthful yet elegant style. She has started buying dresses online, too.

Jeans, shirts, swimsuits

When she sang as a front act for Miss Saigon and Time Cruz JB's concert in San Diego, she wore beaded Arbelle Aguasing gown.

Since then, she's been going to Arbelle, though of course she also has Juicy Couture jeans, T-shirts, swimsuits, in her treasured closet.

TRIZ is partial to fruity, fresh scents like Escada Moon Sparkle.

Hats

As illustrated in the music video of "Isang Himpong Kanta," she adores headgear. "My dad told me that wearing hats makes me more cute in a crowd, makes me look unique."

Taking dad's tip to heart, she has bought fedoras, caps and berets. Latest addition to her collection is a beret from Italy, where she recorded the tracks of her CD with US producer Christian De Walden.

Scents

When it comes to fragrances, she's partial to fruity, fresh scents. "My favorite is Escada Moon Sparkle. I was just browsing in the mall and it caught my eye. I liked that it's pink!"

Fortunately, she loved its scent, too. Another gamble that paid off is Hanajuki Lovers, which comes in cute Japanese doll bottles. "A family friend collects Hanajuki—there are different kinds. I chose Hanajuki Lovers Mask because it's a fragrant. Luckily, I also like it."

Other scents on her dressing table include Gabanna Light Blue, Vera Wang, Princess, Bvlgari, Coco Chanel, Jessica, Prada and DKNY.

DVDs

Although she's young, she's addicted to vintage musicals from MGM. "I was channel-surfing one day and caught 'Top Hat,'" she says.

That started her romance with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers movies, along with Gene Kelly and Judy Garland musicals.

"I love how old Hollywood movie stars performed. They were a triple treat: They sang, danced and acted."

HEADED pants by Arbelle Aguasing

RED dress from Quiapo

BRACELETS and bangles in a rainbow of colors

JUICY Couture earrings and trinkets

PART of her library of vintage DVDs

JUICY Couture wallets to match the bags

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